

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Eccliaastical Affairs.

"THE OVERWHELMING DEFEAT."

THE Parliamentary manœuvre, by the aid of which, on the 16th of May, a decision was obtained on Mr. Miall's motion for disestablishment, different from that which would have been obtained if no such strategy had been resorted to, is rapidly parting with the moral influence which immediately followed its first success. It was inevitable that such would be the case. A false impression, apparently serviceable for the time being, ceases to be so as soon as it is discovered that it is contrary to fact. It soon loses its power to shape or modify the conclusions of reasonable men, even where it is produced by unforeseen accident. But when it becomes known that it was previously designed, arranged for, and carried into effect, with a simple aim to mislead public opinion, the blow which it dealt at the object which it was intended to damage, usually recoils upon those who conspired to deal it, and the motives for continued action which it aimed at suppressing spring up with greater vigour and elasticity in consequence of the unfair means which have been employed to smother them.

So it is with the snap division the result of which was hailed with such vociferous acclamations by the defenders of Church Establishments last Friday week. It has been ascertained, for example, that there was a tacit agreement of purpose between the occupants of the Tory benches and between certain members who sit upon the Treasury bench, to force a division before the dinner hour, and thereby to put a premature close to the discussion, and to take the sense of the House at a moment when the friends of the motion, lulled into false security, were likely to be absent. It seems, moreover, impossible to acquit Mr. Gladstone of having lent himself to this manœuvre. Well, what permanent advantage has been gained by that success? The minority of 61, the smallness of which can be attributed only to unusual tactics, has since developed itself into a *bona fide* minority—so far, at least, as the intentions of members can be reckoned on—of 99 votes. Compared with the division of last year, which pledged no one to disestablishment, but only to an inquiry into the subject of Church property and revenues, the aggregate shows, as might have been anticipated, some falling off, though but a slight one. Compared

with the division of 1871, which was taken on a motion of an analogous character to that of the present year, it shows a gain of some two or three votes. We are not disposed, however, to attach more importance to this fact than it deserves. Our only object in dragging it to the surface is to destroy the inference drawn from the first record of the division, and from the sudden termination of the debate, to the effect that the cause of disestablishment and disendowment has largely retrograded since it was first introduced to Parliament. It is now proved that, even in the House of Commons, such is not the case. The impression made upon the public mind at a first glance is an impression not in harmony with actual facts. Using the House of Commons as an exponent of the voice of the country, we are justified in asserting that the cause instead of losing ground is more than sustaining its high position.

For a few weeks, it may be anticipated that the defeat inflicted upon Mr. Miall and his friends by the Parliamentary manœuvre to which we have just adverted, will somewhat demoralise that belt of opinion which may be said to environ the more compact organisation of the movement. No doubt there were many minds attracted towards it by the swift progress it appeared to be making, which will now cease to regard it with sympathy. As there is "nothing which succeeds like success," so nothing fails more certainly than failure. But it would be a mistake to overrate the value of that nebulous haze of conviction which an active organisation commonly gathers about itself. It is perhaps far safer to look at the effect which a momentary check is found to have upon the central life and energy of the movement in question. And this, we believe, has been rather strengthened than depressed by what has occurred with regard to Mr. Miall's motion. So far as we have had under our notice materials for observation, we have satisfied ourselves that very little has been lost, and that not a little has been gained. Within that region in which earnest conviction has lent itself to the furtherance of the principle of Free Churchmen, not only has there been no panic, but there has been and is an appreciable revival both of determination and of confidence. We are told in Holy Writ that they who believe "shall not make haste." The words fairly enough suggest the attitude of the Liberationists in the circumstances in which recent events have placed them. They continue to have faith in their principle and in the movement which they have set on foot to give it effect. They are not flurried; they are not disposed to rush hither and thither in search of new tactics. They want no specific for an evil which they regard as merely occasional and transient. We hope they will not deem it necessary to change the general direction of their efforts. They have to teach, or, more properly perhaps, to energise, popular opinion. They may be quickened by that which has happened to devote themselves still more zealously to the work they have in hand, and to supply it still more liberally with the means that it requires. They are not afraid of facing much greater disappointments than any they have yet sustained, nor do they lay any stress at all upon merely temporary losses. It is quite possible that the Liberal party, as a party, may suffer serious damage from the course taken by their Parliamentary leader. Of

this we say nothing at present. If it should be so we, at least, shall witness the result without astonishment, but not without regret. But the wintry season which will nip up and possibly extinguish loose Liberalism, will have a contrary effect upon well-developed Liberationism. Therefore, our real friends can afford to "bide their time," or, once more to apply the quotation we have cited, "To make no haste."

Of course, the promoters and guides of the movement will take such steps as the need of the time may seem to them to demand. Confidence has been reposed in them for many years, and that confidence, we are satisfied, will not be withdrawn. It is not because things have happened which they did not anticipate, and would not have chosen, that they are likely to let their hands hang down in helplessness. It will be of some importance to them, however, and to the great object of their pursuit, that their friends should leave them at liberty to fill up their programme of action as the exigency of the times may require. This we have no doubt they are proceeding to do with courage tempered by discretion. Let none of their friends cherish even a passing misgiving as to present appearances. They are deliberately playing the long game. They will not, we hope, be drawn aside from it. A rebuff now and then will serve but to intensify their devotion.

COMPENSATION; NINETY MILLIONS.

APART from those artistic merits which are never wanting in Mr. Gladstone's speeches, there were two points in his criticism of Mr. Miall's motion which have something of a permanent interest. For in the first place he made it clear that he had endeavoured to conceive to himself what would be the practical form in which an English measure of disestablishment would have to be presented to Parliament; and in the next place he showed that the very doubtful principles adopted in the financial portion of the Irish measure would grow into a monstrous absurdity if applied to England. Now it is an interesting fact, of which no doubt Tories have taken note, that, strongly and sincerely as the Prime Minister is opposed to our proposals, he has nevertheless thought it necessary to consider them from a practical point of view. And it is certainly a subject for the grave consideration of those who wish to hasten the legislative embodiment of our views, that the principles hitherto accepted, and now realised in the concrete form of a famous precedent, would make the disestablished English Church, the richest, and—we would say the same thing even if we approved of every line and word in her creeds—the most dangerous corporation in the world.

Mr. Gladstone has taken the pains to ascertain, at least roughly, what would be the amount of property left in the hands of the English Church, if she were treated in the same manner as the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland. And he finds that she would be turned loose upon the world with a capital of £90,000,000; or some £20,000,000 more than a whole year's revenue of the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister naturally suggested that public opinion would be very slow to approve the launching of a voluntary sect on the world, with such an enormous dower out of the resources of the nation. The first reflection which occurs is, that we have been far too easy and goodnatured in dealing with the Irish Establishment. For if the gigantic compensation suggested for English Episcopalianism gives us pause, we cannot but remember that in proportion to the resources of the sister island, the compensation given there is just as great, and left in the hands of a

far smaller fraction of the people. It gives, indeed, a mercenary motive for maintaining an external semblance of union when hearts are divided; but that never was an advantage to any church; and spiritually may prove a deadening blight. We are no friends of schism or groundless separation. But the union maintained by pecuniary considerations may not only be as dead, but as dangerous, as the inward disintegration, with an outward semblance of unity, which characterises a corpse. We fear too that the religious peace which we long to see in Ireland may not be so speedily and thoroughly realised, as if the Church had been really disendowed as well as disestablished. That, however, is a matter of the past; which may be regretted, but cannot be remedied. If we refer to it, it is only for the purpose of emphasizing the warning which it should give for the future. Henceforward, it cannot be too distinctly understood that what we insist upon is not merely the disestablishment, but the real and genuine disendowment of the Church of England.

Let it not be supposed for a moment that we advocate any disregard of that just consideration for individual vested rights, which is always a feature of reforming legislation in England. But we contend that corporations as such have no vested rights, indeed, no rights of any kind, except such as are given by law for public advantage, and can by the same authority be at any time resumed with equal facility when public advantage demands it. Of course no such rights can justly be resumed without fair compensation to individuals holding benefices, or other sources of emolument, under the existing law, with an implied guarantee of continuance. And such individual interests we carefully except, when denying the right of corporations to claim anything for corporate vested interests. In Ireland, however, not merely individual office-holders, but the Church as a corporate institution, has received an enormous pecuniary award of damages for a change of position, which we hold to be greatly to her benefit. We are aware that no such corporate claim was expressly announced by Mr. Gladstone. We know too that the sum awarded was obtained by an ingenious manipulation of individual claims. Still the result is the same. An absurdly disproportionate share of the national wealth is made over in perpetuity to a voluntary sect. True, if the nation had resumed the whole of the strictly national property, the process of disendowment would have taken a much longer period for its accomplishment. And in the case of Ireland there were perhaps special reasons for hurrying that process as much as possible. Such reasons, however, do not exist in England. Here we hold most emphatically that it would be far better to wait patiently until all existing individual rights die out, than by any permissive compounding of these interests to hasten the consummation, at the risk of loading a voluntary ecclesiastical corporation with the national wealth. No doubt many practical difficulties would be experienced in the course of such a gradual process as that which we suggest. And any scheme that would shorten it without creating greater evils should be carefully weighed. But any amount of patient waiting, and any devotion of administrative skill to a long and thankless task would be preferable to the deliberate spoliation of the country to the extent of 90,000,000*l.* for the benefit of a sectarian corporation. It cannot be too often repeated that the Church of England as a legal institution has, and can have, no vested rights; and to create them for the purpose of disestablishment would be in our view a suicidal policy. In other words, we hold that the permission to create a Church fund by the compounding of individual claims is one that cannot be asked as a right and is grossly opposed to public policy.

It may be said that every possessor of a benefice in the Church holds both office and emolument during good behaviour; and that it would be unjust to subject him to the chances of new conditions imposed by a voluntary and free Church, without offering to him, as compensation, the option of enriching, by the extent of his claims, the new ecclesiastical body with which he identifies himself. But on the other hand every position held by any Englishman is avowedly subject to any changes which may be thought good by the united wisdom of Crown, Lords and Commons. And the higher moral law, to which even these authorities bow, requires only that the personal interests of the man affected should not be unfairly injured. No one thought that the Irish Bishops were wrongly treated when they were deprived of their peerage. For this was merely a legal accident of their office manifestly open to legal correction. So it cannot for a moment be maintained that every Established Church

clergyman has an indefeasible right to the permanent status of a national priest. All that can be fairly said is that he should not be deprived, without compensation, of his ordinary means of living. Suppose, then, that each benefited clergyman were offered the option of a reasonable life pension; or the continuance, during his personal tenure of office, of the existing arrangement by which he draws his income from national property. In the former case all expenses incident to his duties, as for instance the pay of curates and other ordinary clerical outgoings, would have to be deducted from his gross income, in determining the amount of pension due. In the latter case he would take still the gross income, but would render himself liable to the chance of any new conditions which the disestablished Church might impose. He would, however, be unlikely to be lightly disturbed, inasmuch as on the next vacancy the property from which he draws his income would be resumed by the State. In the former case the nation would at once resume its own, subject only to a life claim to the extent of the net income after deducting expenses. In the latter case the property, under strict guardianship, would continue to be devoted to the present sectarian objects, until the holder deceased.

Such suggestions as these are, of course, mere illustrations of many possible alternatives which occur when the precedent of Ireland is pressed upon us as binding. They are certainly not to be regarded as portions of any scheme to which we are immovably devoted. The subject of church buildings, tithes, and above all the immoral and demoralising property in advowsons, would lead us too far at present. We have only wished to indicate our own general feeling about Mr. Gladstone's dream of a free Church endowed with 90,000,000*l.*

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

It will be remembered that Mr. Gladstone, during the debate on Mr. Miall's motion, quoted, in a very solemn manner, Dr. Dollinger's eulogium of the English Church. Now, the end of Mr. Gladstone's quotation is at about the middle of page 130 of Dr. Dollinger's work, and as the *Guardian* says in the article of last week, that Mr. Gladstone was "only concerned to deny the truth of the picture of a fettered and miserable Church, which Mr. Miall had painted," we produce, in the first instance, what Dr. Dollinger says upon this subject. We quote from page 130 of the "Reunion of the Churches," the quotation beginning at the line next to that where Mr. Gladstone ended:—

But there is no doubt a dark side to the picture, and three points will at once strike the eye of every observer. In the first place may be mentioned what is in England called Erastianism—the heavy yoke of State supervision under which the English Church groans, a yoke it has indeed imposed upon its own neck and daily confirms by the subscription of the Thirty-nine Articles. For this alone of all Churches in its confession of faith declares it to be a divinely revealed doctrine, that councils cannot be held without the permission of secular princes, which implies the right of the State not to allow any authoritative declaration of doctrine without its own control and consent. The King or Queen, now represented by the Privy Council, chiefly composed of laymen, is the Supreme Court of Appeal for all dogmatic or ritual questions. Its decision in the two famous cases of Gorham and Denison some years ago drove numbers of clergymen out of the Church, which seemed to them desecrated by this bondage.

A second great evil is the religious neglect of the masses congregated in the great towns. The Church, with her existing machinery, cramped by the family ties of the clergy and the want of religious corporations, feels herself powerless in the presence of this constantly increasing heathenism; and all the isolated attempts to meet the crisis have hitherto proved unavailing. Not to make our quotation too long, we may simply say that Dr. Dollinger considers that "the greatest difficulty and most painful disease of the English Church is the internal rivalry and antagonism of parties and systems, and the harassing uncertainty for clergy and laity which is its inevitable result"—and he then proceeds to describe those parties in language which appeared in this journal little more than twelve months ago.

So much as to the "fettered" condition of the Church, Dr. Dollinger's opinion of it, and Mr. Gladstone's reticence of quotation upon that subject. But Mr. Gladstone introduced his quotation as an argument against a motion in favour of disestablishment, not alluding to the fact that Dr. Dollinger, in another part of the work from which he quoted, pronounces in favour of the disestablishment of the English Church. We quote from p. 35 of the "Lectures" as follows:—

But there must be a fundamental change in the condition of the Established Church itself, if it means to deal with the question of union in earnest; it must abandon its position as a State-Church, which makes it at once too narrow and too broad, too large and too stiff, too free in one sense, and too dependent in another.

It is, we apprehend, quite sufficient to reproduce these extracts without making any comment upon them, excepting to say that we certainly need some well defined doctrine concerning the ethics of quotation.

Few Englishmen are aware of the great interest taken by Americans in English domestic politics, and by all religious men, in the ecclesiastical politics of this country. We recently had the pleasure of reading in the Boston *Congregationalist* an admirable paper from the pen of Dr. Allon, entitled, "Reasons for disestablishing the Church of England," written for the information of Americans at the request of the editor of that journal. We now find in the New York *Christian Intelligencer*—an organ of the Dutch Reformed Church in that city, whose adherents are almost as numerous as the Presbyterians, a paper from the pen of Mr. J. A. Froude, on "The Anglican Episcopal Church." The paper is, mainly, of an historical character, sketching in very bare outlines some of the broadest facts of ecclesiastical history in that country. It is a bold and trenchant sketch written with great vigour, and, as some would say, with cruel honesty. After referring to the weakness of the Evangelicals, and the position of the Oxford party, Mr. Froude concludes with some words which apply to those who are without, as well as those who are within the pale of the establishment:—

The Episcopal Church of England, with its collateral branches in this and other countries, no longer lends strength to the cause of Protestantism. It is the enemy's chief depot and recruiting-ground. The ascendancy which it enjoys through its connection with the State; the exclusive possession of the old cathedrals and parish churches; the tradition that hangs about it that Dissent is vulgar, and that to be an Anglican, if not a Papist, is essential to being a gentleman, are weapons in its hands which it uses with fatal ingenuity. The Dissenters themselves are not proof against the baneful influence which is extending even into their own borders. To those who have eyes to see, there is no more instructive symptom of the age than the tendency of Presbyterian, Independent, even Unitarian clergy to assume a sacerdotal dress and appearance. Their fathers insisted that between laymen and ministers there was no difference but in name, and they carried their protest into the outward costume. The modern ministers form themselves into a caste. They display their professions in the collars of their coats; whether they are Roman or Genevan can be learned only on particular inquiry. Their fathers ejected from their chapels the meretricious ornaments so dear to sentimental devotionism. The bare walls seemed to say, in their stern simplicity, that no lies should be spoken or acted within them. Now, each chapel must have its delicately moulded arches, its painted windows, its elaborate music. The exterior of an Independent church is no longer a symbol of the doctrine which is still preached from its pulpits. We enter, and we are still uncertain where we are till we study the construction of the East end—and even the still blank East end suggests in its form the idea of the not distant altar and sacrificing priest.

It was imagined that the Public Worship Facilities Bill, to which we have more than once drawn notice, had no further chance this session, in consequence of a lapsus in complying with the standing orders of the House of Lords. It appears, however, that this is to be condoned, and that the bill will be brought forward in due course. The *Record* continues its opposition to it, but Canon Ryle has written another letter to that journal in its favour. Canon Ryle, however, now asks for what the bill certainly will not give. He says:—

One crying want of this day is liberty for Churchmen to provide additional places of worship, without being obliged to wait for the sanction either of the incumbent or the bishop. This ought to be the main principle of Mr. Salt's bill. If the present bill, now before the House of Lords, cannot be amended so as to provide this liberty, by all means let it be thrown out. It would not be worth having, and might do more harm than good.

The thing really demanded by the times is this. Let any one hundred *bona fide* Churchmen in any parish be empowered to build or hire an additional place of worship for the due performance of Church services without waiting for the permission either of the incumbent of the parish or of the bishop. Let the same hundred Churchmen be empowered to nominate a minister for this additional place of worship, to be duly licensed by the bishop, providing his papers are satisfactory. Liberty like this, I believe, would be a blessing to the Church of England.

We have to say that "liberty like this" is such liberty as the Established Church is not likely to have while it is established. It is the natural liberty of a Christian Church, but it is long since Warburton, and, after him, the present Bishop of Winchester, reminded the Establishmentarian party that they had surrendered their liberties for their privileges.

We learn, very indirectly, that disestablishment has been extended to the Mauritius; but we learn it in this manner with the same gladness as we should if direct information had come to us. We find from a Mauritius paper a report of some proceedings connected with the arrival of Dr. Royston, the new bishop of the diocese, and some adverse comment is made upon the policy of disestablishment, which, it seems, has been extended to the

colony. It is feared that disestablishment will work great injury to the Episcopalian Church. Well, that Church has been established, sustained, and bishoped for a long period, and what does the new bishop, in his first communication to this country, write? He says, "Just now the Protestants there have a very difficult position to occupy in the face of increasing Popery. Indeed it is so here also, and my heart sometimes all but misgives me as to the immediate issue." That is the result of the Establishment of the Protestant Episcopalian Church in the Mauritius as in England. Now that it has become a Free Church, things may take a turn.

We have read in the Baptist newspapers, with great regret, of the death of a very old and firm friend, the Rev. Francis Clowes, of Holloway. Mr. Clowes was once one of the tutors of Horton College, Bradford; he came to London a long while ago, and was for years one of the editors of the *Freeman* newspaper. He was also a writer for other journals, and for some time a member of the committee of the Liberation Society. It is the case with some men that they are superior, as it is the case with other men that they are inferior, to the actual, or apparently actual, work which they do. Mr. Clowes, whom we knew for many years, belonged to the first order. He was a man of very singular ability combined with rare diffidence and modesty—a diffidence and modesty that prevented him from occupying the position for which his intellectual abilities obviously qualified him. His retiring nature, however, commanded a purer admiration than that which can ever be accorded to any vulgar or "pushing man." He died at a comparatively ripe age—sixty-eight. He was, through life, a hard worker, and probably none but himself knew the full extent of his services to his generation.

MR. MIALL'S RECENT MOTION.

On the 15th and 16th inst. 336 petitions in support of Mr. Miall's motion were presented. The total number presented up to the 20th was 644, with 43,120 signatures; but many of them were from public meetings, and were signed only by the chairman. The petitions against disestablishment were 153, with 32,154; but 14,623 of the signatures were attached to one petition, viz., that presented by Mr. Hardy, from Bradford.

At a meeting of the Nottingham and Notts Nonconformist Association, held on Thursday, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That, whereas the members of the Established Churches of England and Scotland form only a minority of the population of the United Kingdom; and whereas Nonconformists have hitherto been debarred from their just claims as citizens to perfect religious equality with their fellow-citizens in the eye of the law; and, whereas, the recent debate and division in the House of Commons on Mr. Miall's motion show that many Liberal members of Parliament and of the Government are prepared to regard Nonconformist grievances with indifference or contempt; therefore, this association is of opinion that the time has arrived when the friends of religious equality throughout the kingdom, and Nonconformists in particular, should, in view of a general election, adopt more decided measures than they have heretofore contemplated for the assertion of their rights, the removal of their disabilities, and especially for the disestablishment and disendowment of the English and Scotch Churches; and this association will be glad to take counsel with other kindred organisations in order to make the action that is to be taken as practical and pre-emptory as possible."

The Hon. Lyulph Stanley, at a recent Liberal demonstration at Oldham, said that the impression he had got on reading Mr. Gladstone's speech was, that Mr. Gladstone did not feel there was any real or substantial answer to be made to Mr. Miall's motion—that Mr. Miall had the weightiest argument on his side. One of the points which Mr. Gladstone put prominently forward was that, if they were to disestablish the Church of England as they did the Church of Ireland, and in the same way, they would have to give the disestablished Church a capital of ninety millions sterling to start afresh with. He (Mr. Stanley) could only say, if they were to disestablish the Church in that manner, he would have voted against Mr. Miall if he had been in the House on Friday evening, he not being in favour of making a present of ninety millions sterling of money to any private corporation, for he thought it would be a dangerous body to set up in the State with that immense sum of money. But he did not think that it at all followed that the extreme lavish expenditure which was incurred in disestablishing the Irish Church, and the extremely improper way in which Parliament was—to use a popular phrase—"done" in paying, almost twice over, compensation for a number of years, need be repeated in the case of the English Church. He did not all admit, as an advocate of Disestablishment, that they were called upon to pay ninety millions sterling, or a half of that sum, or even a quarter of that sum, to start the Church afresh on its own basis. Of course life interests were quite a

different thing, but he entirely objected, as an advocate of disestablishment, to any of those contrivances which were really disestablishment under pretence of disendowment.

THE PRESS ON THE DISESTABLISHMENT DEBATE.

The *Saturday Review* contends that upon all the three points upon which Mr. Miall chose to rest his case it has broken down. He has not shown that the violation of religious equality is anything more than technical and nominal. He has not shown that the Church of England would be either stronger or freer if her subjugation to the State were at an end. He has not shown that any harm follows from Parliament being nominally charged with duties which in point of fact are performed by nobody. It is satisfactory that a position so weak in theory should have proved equally weak when brought to the test of a division. Mr. Gladstone's speech aptly expressed the weariness of the subject which has overtaken the existing House of Commons; and there is nothing to show that the feeling out of doors is in any way more favourable to Mr. Miall's cause. Until the verdict of the constituencies has been given against him, it is hardly to be expected that he should retire from the contest; but to all appearance the next general election will give him this additional excuse for leaving disestablishment to slumber awhile undisturbed. In the meanwhile, the zeal of that knot of self-conceited agitators which has been for some time deafening our ears with the assertion that the nostrum of the Liberation Society is ripe to be accepted as the prescription of the Liberal party will have received a salutary catarract of undeniably cold water.

The *Spectator* suspects that the real cause of the new disinclination felt to Mr. Miall's motion is that Englishmen are beginning to see that absolute religious equality, like almost every other kind of absolute equality, is a dream. If there were not and never had been any establishment or endowment of religion at all, still there could be no real religious equality in Mr. Miall's sense; there would still be differences in fashion, and differences in wealth, and differences in worldly prestige—in short, differences in the strength of external motives for the adherence to different creeds, which would prevent anything like real equality of advantage for making known the purely spiritual and moral and intellectual aspects of the various forms of faith. To balance the disadvantages to some forms of faith created by the State assistance to other forms of faith, there are undoubtedly a large class of serious inequalities redressed by that assistance. If it be creating an inequality to take from one man his minute share in certain public property and apply it to aid a faith he disapproves, what shall we say of the inequality between the lot of those millions who, having also their rightful share in the public property devoted to religious purposes, will not, if it be otherwise appropriated, even be in a position to judge whether they have been defrauded or not, and the lot of those who are already sufficiently well instructed in religious matters to know what they approve and what they disapprove? Is there no gross inequality there? And is it not an inequality which the foundation of a State Church was expressly intended to diminish? The National Church cannot indeed absolutely remove this inequality. The provision it makes for the poorest districts and poorest classes in the kingdom is of course an inefficient provision; but it at least diminishes the inequality, it gives religious instruction where none could otherwise be given, it even renders Dissent itself possible where the very meaning of Dissent would otherwise be an enigma; it lays the basis on which Nonconformists, no less than Churchmen, the heterodox no less than the orthodox, build; it tends to rectify the most miserable of all inequalities, the inequality between those who have a capacity, however uncultivated, for forming religious opinions, and those who have none. The Dissenters themselves would not have near the power they really possess if they had not had the religious teaching, good or bad, of the Established Church on which to base their own different teaching.

Mr. Miall says the *Guardian*, appeared throughout in the character of the "candid friend" of the Church.

His tone was respectful, almost sympathetic; and he only sighed over the helplessness, the want of self-government, the paralysed and stiffened condition which, it seems, establishment inflicts upon the Church. This is not, indeed, the tone which he has assumed before, or the spirit in which he has spoken elsewhere. But let this pass. His assumption of it now shows that he entertains some hope of "disestablishing the Church from within," by inviting friendly communication with the parties among ourselves who feel so strongly the encumbrances of establishment, that they are ready, in their ignorance of the evils which its loss would entail, to throw it off impatiently, and strive for an ideal condition of undiminished influence and increased freedom. Nor can it be denied that the present state of things gives some colour of sincerity to the pleas which he advances, and, although we may feel a little suspicious of the reality of his new character, prevents it from being too transparently unreal. The lesson which we should draw from this aspect of the debate is, that we Churchmen must do our best to take away the reproach and to heal the cause of disunion among ourselves. We can show that we are not stiffened and paralysed by establishment; a glance at what is going on in all the parishes of the country will prove that. We can assert truly that in the Church as established we have a variety

and freedom both of opinion and practice, which in Nonconformist sects are unknown. But we cannot deny our want of self-government, and the difficulty, perhaps the impossibility, of making many of the reforms which we need without it. If we would make Mr. Miall's last position untenable, we must, at all hazards, resolve that this want shall be remedied, not indeed chiefly for the sake of the Establishment, but far more for the spiritual efficiency of the Church. . . . We should venture to draw from the past the moral of encouragement and watchfulness for the future. The question is not finally disposed of; for the course of the events abroad must affect its solution here in England. But the decision of the Legislature gives us time and opportunity. On the use which we make of these, humanly speaking, the ultimate issue must turn.

One effect of the recent debate and division will be, according to the *John Bull*, to open people's eyes to the relative positions of the Church and Dissent, and disabuse them of the error into which they have allowed themselves to be driven by the blustering and impudence of the Nonconformist body:—

We believe that the numbers in the late division represent the relative numbers, and still more the relative feelings of the English people on the great questions which this unscrupulous and mendacious body have made the subjects of their agitation, especially that of national education. But the majority will not speak out; and herein, and here alone, lies practically the weak point of the cause which the nation at large holds dear. They allow judgment to go by default, and have hitherto left noise and impudence in possession of the field. We trust things are now changed. A majority passed the second reading of the Bursars Bill, to secure the votes of the Dissenters at the next election. They were told that these could return or reject them, and they believed it, though we take the liberty to deny it, and the result will prove that we are right. However, having fired off their gun, they put it away, and we shall have no more of this atrocious measure this session; nor does it appear that it will struggle up to the door of the House of Lords, even if it does get into committee in the Lower House. The next House of Commons will exhibit a very different state of things on these subjects, and none are more aware of this than this unscrupulous association, who, knowing that their time is short, are exercising to the full the power which a fortuitous and unnatural combination of circumstances temporarily placed in their hands. That they have done so, we cannot regret; without this, whatever may be our own convictions, it might have been difficult to open the eyes of the nation to the real character of their designs and their utter want of truth and honesty. Now, having had ample "rope given," they have thoroughly unmasked themselves and their designs, and given people reason to bless themselves that they have not surrendered their liberties to the tender mercies of such unscrupulous defenders of religious liberty and the rights of conscience.

The *John Bull* then endeavours to draw a distinction between Nonconformity and Dissent, indulging in a coarse and vulgar caricature of the former, of which any respectable secular journal would be ashamed.

The *Record* quotes from a letter from Canon Ryle to this effect:—"Mr. Miall's defeat is matter for thankfulness, but it does not heal the wounds and cure the diseases of the Church of England." Our contemporary goes on to say:—

To imagine that, in the absence of internal reform, and with the *quies non movet* motto which finds such favour in high quarters for rallying principle, the Church of England will be strong enough to resist for ever and aye the attacks of her antagonists, is to dwell in a fool's paradise. The safety of the Church of England, if she is to stand as the sign and representative of national Christianity, can only be found, under God, in enlisting more thoroughly the sympathies of the laity, in broadening the basis of our ecclesiastical legislature, and getting rid as soon as possible of the notion that arrangements which were well enough two or three centuries ago are necessarily adapted to our present needs and present circumstances. It is a grave question—Will our ecclesiastical rulers be wise in time? Intelligent laymen are asking it in all anxious seriousness. On the answer which may be made to it during the next two or three years will mainly depend the future of the Church Establishment.

In another article the *Record*, after praising the dignity and wise management of the Irish Church Synod, asks if such has been the case in Ireland, what would it be in England with a synod of a disestablished Church sitting in the metropolis, and rivalling in the width of the interests with which it dealt and the importance of its transactions the dignity of the imperial Parliament itself? But Mr. Gladstone's argument in the disestablishment debate was that the course of the Irish Church, instead of allowing greater liberty to religious thought, had tended seriously to restrain it:—

He referred, no doubt, to the Liturgical revision still in progress, and to the alterations adopted in order to exclude Ritualism and its practical Popery, and to remove from the documents of the Church every possible appearance of complicity with it. This process is natural in a voluntary body; for, deprived of all legal prohibition, it is only in the identity of principle that it can possibly find its bond of cohesion. For ourselves, we heartily rejoice, for the truth's sake, at what has been done by the Irish Synod, even although it has fallen short in some particulars of what we ventured to expect. The result, in constituting a pure Church, is indefinitely important in the present, and, in the future, it has a contingent bearing on the fortunes of our own Church which cannot possibly be overestimated.

The Irish experience in respect of Church patronage is valuable. "A patronage board now exists for every parish, consisting of three laymen appointed by the parish itself to represent its interests, three nominees, one lay and two clerical, appointed by the bishop, and the bishop himself. Thus a majority of four laymen is secured in every case, and of these three are personally interested in the parish, and are thoroughly acquainted with its

wants. The result has been that excellent appointments have been made, and in Dublin itself there are many churches which before disestablishment were in a most unsatisfactory condition, but which are now flourishing with crowded congregations and the best possible spirit among their members. It is true that they have at present an advantage, which will not be permanent unless voluntary zeal shall supply for the future what the process of disendowment has provided in the present; we mean an adequate endowment. Under the Act the vested rights of curates were compensated by an income of 200*l.* a-year. This puts them in a position comparatively independent, and by selecting the new incumbents of parishes from the list of these compensated curates an adequate income is secured to the ministry."

The Ritualist papers are in an exultant mood. The *Church Review* regards the temporal position of the Establishment as "stronger than ever." The failure of prospects of disestablishment is due entirely to the progress of the Catholic movement, and it is Ritualism that is carrying the movement to the lower strata of society. The true policy of the bishops is to carry out internal administrative reforms and leave Ritualism alone. The *Church Times* is even more sanguine, regarding the "crushing defeat" of Mr. Miall as more important than anything that has happened in the Church of England since the Reformation! This time the enemy has been defeated along the entire line. The Church Association had collapsed, and now the disestablishment movement. The real meaning of the vote of Friday week "is that the Church, Ritualism and all—or rather shall we not say in consequence of Ritualism, and the life, the zeal, and the self-denial which Ritualism denotes?—enjoys so great a prestige in the country that numbers who supported Mr. Miall last year feel that they dare not meet their constituents if they again voted for him, and that other members who did not vote against him last year dare not face theirs, unless they atone for their negligence?" The *Church Times* is very hopeful as to the future:—

The country is rapidly becoming Catholicised and Ritualised; but people see that they cannot be made either Catholic or Ritualist against their will, and they have no wish to part with their English freedom of pleasing themselves to-morrow, because they are not quite sure about it to-day. In a word, all serious fighting is over. There will, of course, be a good deal of skirmishing in out-of-the-way corners for the next year or two; and it is possible that the answer to the Church Association which the primates are incubating may be so indiscreet as to cause a temporary revival of the strife. But the controversy is moribund, and we disbelieve in the power of the archbishops, with or without the help of the right rev. bench, to give it any real life. If they could do so, Mr. Miall might well take courage, and their graces might run some peril of bringing what they regard the worst of all conceivable evils as *Punch* in his witty cartoon last week suggested—disestablishment and disendowment—upon the Church; but so far as it is possible to forecast the future, all serious peril is past; and the Church, without going through a course of whole-sale confiscation, may look forward to being gradually set free from State control. As for State patronage—unless by that is meant robbery and sacrilege—she has never enjoyed it to any extent worth speaking of.

The *Watchman* sees in Mr. Miall's defeat a reason for Wesleyans drawing closer to the Church of England. That Church is declared to be in no sense an alien institution, and the people at large are more thoroughly Protestant even than many of the clergy. Hence in rural districts at the present time there is often as much attachment to the Church as in olden times. For the English Church is to many the landmark of the Reformation, and its danger lies rather from Ritualistic sappers than from the people at large. When Mr. Gladstone asked the House to refuse consent to Mr. Miall's bill "on the ground of its being at variance with the practical wishes, the intelligent opinion, and the religious convictions of the large majority of the people of this country," there can be little doubt that he spoke with the true instinct of a far-seeing statesman, and his vigorous, decisive language will be welcomed throughout England. [This is pretty strong for a Wesleyan organ!] Methodism by word or deed has never sought to weaken the attachment of the people to the English Church:—

It has been felt that the action of isolated ministers of the Church who have refused burial to the children of Methodists is rather to be traced to individual bigotry than to any other source, and that the old haughty indifference of the clergyman towards the Wesleyan minister is in many places fast fading away. Even where the ivy-covered head of the parish church is confronted with the walls of a Wesleyan chapel, there need be no cause for discord. Like two streams which run parallel for some distance, and then branch off, both helping to beautify the landscape, and touching with the fringe of their moisture flower and plant which would otherwise decay, so the Church and Methodism may both pursue their courses, &c.

The *English Independent* points out that after all the results of the debate of Friday week were obtained by trickery, and the employment of trickery by a party, is always a sign of conscious weakness. The attempts to magnify the victory indicate the same feeling. In listening to the jubilant strains of the Church party, especially in marking the desire of the secretary of the Church Defence Association to mystify the subject by comparing the division of 1872 on a simple motion for inquiry with that of 1873 on a distinct resolution in favour of disestablishment, we begin to feel that our opponents see that we have more strength than we have been dis-

posed to claim for ourselves, and that there is in their ranks much more serious alarm than we should have thought possible. Mr. Miall's was, after all, only a tentative—in some senses only an educational—motion. This temporary check will probably benefit Nonconformists:—

There is much educational work to be done before disestablishment is possible; and the sooner we recognise the necessity for it, and the more resolute the spirit in which we set ourselves to do it, the better for the prospects of our cause. The present exigency is one to test the mettle of a party; and we have no fear that the Nonconformists will be found deficient either in spirit or in moderation, and the crisis needs the one as much as the other. We must not be seduced into hasty words, or ill-advised measures, but we must make it clear to the Liberal party and its leaders that we do not mean to sacrifice our principles to suit the political interests of allies, who certainly have not shown themselves careful either of our feelings or our convictions. We must be firm, yet temperate; not madly rash, nor coolly diffident; willing to listen to reason, yet resolved not to be made the sport and plaything of a party. We must have the full courage of our convictions, and at once make it distinctly understood that we find no reason to retreat by one inch from any position we have previously taken. At the same time, we will not assume any arrogant or dictatorial tone, as though we were entitled to shape the policy of the Liberal party according to our ideas, without regard to the feelings of other sections, to the general interests of the country, or to the prospects of success. We should not determine on taking an attitude even of political neutrality until we have exhausted every means of arriving at an understanding with a Government in which there are so many friendly elements. It may be that we shall fail, but we shall be all the stronger in our position if our policy is marked by moderation as well as firmness.

The *Christian World* is not all discouraged by this disestablishment debate, and is strong in the conviction that the injustice involved in the existing position of the State-Church will ere long produce its due effect:—

While a company of the Free Churches—Congregationalist, Wesleyan, Baptist, Presbyterian—are maintaining their own clergy, sending out missionaries, evangelising the masses, and by their preaching of Gospel morality and their ardent loyalty bestowing countless blessings on the nation, the Episcopalian Church, richest of all, consumes public money to the stupendous amount indicated by Mr. Gladstone. While poor men groan under taxes, property to the tune of scores or hundreds of millions is applied to maintain the Church of dukes and millionaires. This grand, undisguisable fact can surely be no longer hid from noble-minded Churchmen. At a time when Mammon is more powerful than ever before, is it spiritually beneficial for the members of a Church that they are not called to exercise the grace of liberality in maintaining their own clergy? At a time when men sell their very souls for rank and social precedence, is it for the spiritual benefit of a Church that she should be dressed in the raiment of State distinction, and hold her honours, not at the hand of Christ, but of statesmen? At a time when Romanism is steadily, subtly, swiftly advancing in England, when Rome's grand scheme appears to be to steal insensibly into the Established Church, when about 500 clergymen desire that auricular confession may be formally recognised within her pale, ought the Protestant energies of the Church to be paralysed by bondage to the State? These questions are for Churchmen to answer. The argument in favour of disestablishment, from the point of view of the Anglican Protestant, is, we think, overwhelming. But as Englishmen, we are bound, in justice to ourselves and our children, not to sit down quietly under injustice; and, speaking for Nonconformists, we say that the perpetuation of the Establishment is unjust. We solemnly demand the reason why one Protestant denomination should be selected for distinction and emolument? We are perfectly aware that, were the Church disestablished, the great body of Nonconformists would remain on a lower social level than the great body of Churchmen. But it is not for the Government of a country to aggravate social distinction, and the State, in England, which exists for the benefit of all Englishmen, does expressly and grievously aggravate the social predominance of Churchmen. The Church which has most of wealth ought least of all to be endowed; the Church which has most of rank ought least of all to be established. Since concurrent endowment is absolutely impossible, justice can be satisfied only by disestablishment and disendowment of the Episcopalian Church.

The *Freeman* notes that only two days before Mr. Miall brought forward his motion, Mr. Gladstone, speaking of Mr. Cowper-Temple's Occasional Sermons Bill, had denied the expediency of "an assembly like the House of Commons intermeddling in ecclesiastical affairs"; a principle which he had forgotten on Friday, but which he did not venture, even then, to dispute. Mr. Gladstone's speech was in the highest degree, indiscreet.

He boasted that the majority of the people of England, nay of Wales, were "in some way or other" attached to the Established Church, and dared the Liberatorists to fight the question at the polling booths, coupling the challenge with the prophecy that they would lose. By the use of this language he no doubt hopes to checkmate Mr. Disraeli; but in retaining the support of one section of his followers who were in danger of going over to the enemy at the next election, he runs the risk of estranging another and much larger section of the Liberal party—that section, we will take leave to add, but for whom he would not to-day be the Prime Minister of England. There are many of our readers, we are sure, who will be disposed to agree with us when we say that it may be the best policy on our part to take Mr. Gladstone at his word. We cordially concur with our respected brother, Mr. Robinson, of Cambridge, that it is clearly our duty now seriously to inquire whether it be not incumbent on us at the next election resolutely to stand aloof from Mr. Forster and the party which discarded us last Friday. The result would, no doubt, be the breaking up of the party, but that, as Mr. Robinson justly remarks,

would be no great loss to us. With some it will be a question whether it is possible for us to preserve our self-respect while declining the challenge of the leader who manifestly sets such small store by our support. On the other hand, we are well aware that excellent and faithful workers in our ranks will be disposed to counsel a continuance of the policy we have pursued in the past.

Mr. Gladstone made a great mistake in contending that the disestablished Church in Ireland is less free than the Established Church in England. No doubt the Irish clergy are less free than the English clergy, but the freedom of the clergyman is a synonym for the bondage of the laity. The Anglican priesthood can confess penitents, preach Popish doctrine, and even deny the truth of three-fourths of the Bible. Their congregations are not free to choose either the kind of ministrations which shall be found in churches, or the men that shall minister. There is no doubt the issue will ultimately be narrowed to this point, "Shall we have a State Church with a free priesthood, or a disestablished Church with a free laity?" We are not quite sure that Episcopacy itself, or a priesthood, will be safe, should the controversy be continued to the bitter end.

The *Baptist* thinks that the only fault to be found with Mr. Miall is that he was rather too moderate. His appeal is to the people of England. Consequently, we think he might allow himself more freedom of utterance, and speak, with more of passionate denunciation, of the evils of a system which he of all men is best able to describe and rebuke. As it was, nobody could say that Mr. Miall is revolutionary in his tone and temper. If only Mr. Miall's calm and conclusive reasoning could be supplemented by the passionate eloquence of Mr. Bright, there would remain nothing more to be desired.

The *Débat*, in an article on the rejection of Mr. Miall's motion, after referring to the objections raised by Mr. Gladstone to the disestablishment of the English Church, says:—"What Mr. Gladstone regards as impossible in 1873, will perhaps be realised in 1878. Did he not designate in 1865, as beyond the field of practical politics, that suppression of the Established Church in Ireland which he himself carried in 1870? In any case, although the idea of the disestablishment of the Churches of England and Scotland may not obtain the support of the Government, it will probably make its way. In England the excellent habit prevails of reflecting much and for a long time upon plans of serious reform, of examining them under every aspect, of submitting them to criticism before voting them, and by this means they are ultimately accomplished without any shock or danger. Men of initiative are allowed to prepare the way for these reforms, and that they often acquit themselves of this duty with rare perseverance the Parliamentary annals supply abundant proof. The idea of the separation of the Church from the State, under whatever aspect it may be regarded, can resist every kind of criticism; its realisation, which the well-known energy and perseverance of Mr. Miall will no doubt contribute to render more prompt, is therefore in England only a question of time."

THE SCOTCH ASSEMBLIES.

The General Assembly of the Established Church met on Thursday, the Earl of Airlie being the Lord High Commissioner. There was a procession from Holyrood Palace to St. Giles's Cathedral, where the Rev. Dr. Jamieson, the retiring moderator, conducted the service. In the afternoon, the Assembly was constituted in the usual form, and the Rev. Dr. Gillan was chosen moderator. On Friday evening the report of the committee on intemperance was presented and approved, after a discussion on the merits of the Gothenburg licensing system, in which Sir R. Anstruther, M.P., the Earl of Selkirk, and others, took part. The report of the committee on continental and foreign churches was afterwards brought on.

The Free Church Assembly also met on Thursday; the Rev. Dr. Charles J. Brown, retiring moderator, conducted religious service, after which the Rev. Dr. Duff was elected moderator. His opening address was very trenchant and discouraging. Referring to the common phrase in which the present troubles of the Free Church are spoken of as a "crisis," he proceeded to show in detail how infinitely greater was the "crisis" in the affairs of Christendom and the world. He pictured in vivid colours the strength and menacing attitude of heathenism, of Mohammedanism, of Popery, infidelity, and Rationalism; described the alarming prevalence of licentiousness in literature and practice, of drunkenness, luxury, undevoutness, Sabbath-breaking; and turned his striking description to practical account by asking what the Church had done in its individual and collective capacity to stem this torrent of error and unbelief and wickedness. Any differences that existed in the Free Church were not worthy to be named in comparison with the mighty crisis the Church was called upon to face at home and abroad. They could not afford at a time like this to be splitting up into hostile camps. The Church must unite against the powers of evil, and in all disputed points, except the grand fundamental doctrines essential to salvation, must adopt the scriptural order, and exercise mutual brotherly forbearance. At Friday's sitting the House was occupied with the reports on religion and morals and on the conversion of the Jews. The Assembly was addressed in the evening by Pastor Alexander, Pastor Schubert, and Mr. Cesar, a stu-

dent from Bohemia. The critical debate on the "mutual eligibility" overture stands for this day.

The death is announced of the Right Rev. Dr. Ewing, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, aged fifty-nine. He was the author of several able works and tracts. Theologically Dr. Ewing belonged to the subdivision of the Liberal party in the Church which has been called "Broad, with unction."

CONFESSION IN THE CHURCH.—The *Rock* hears that it is in contemplation to hold "a great indignation meeting" in London on the subject of the Confessional, which, adds our contemporary, is rapidly working "its disastrous way" in the Church of England.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RECENT SPEECH.—The London correspondent of the *Manchester Courier*, a Conservative and Church Defence paper, says:—"People have not done speculating yet as to the motives of Mr. Gladstone's remarkable reply to Mr. Miall's motion, going so far beyond the necessities of the case as it did, and shutting himself off, as he evidently tried to do, from the faintest flirtation hereafter with the Liberation Society. Is he returning to the creeds of his youth? or is he awake at last to the depth and solidity of the Conservative feeling arrayed against him, and is he trying to 'hedge'? Of all Mr. Gladstone's unexpected gyrations none has so much puzzled his observers and students."

THE DISESTABLISHMENT DEBATE AT THE OXFORD UNION.—The debate on Mr. Shirley's motion, "That the Church of England ought to be disestablished and disendowed," which has been several times adjourned, was brought to a conclusion at a late hour on Friday night, when a division took place on the original motion, forty voting for it, and eighty-eight against; majority against the motion, forty-eight. The debate (our correspondent says) was one of the most interesting and exciting ever remembered at the union. The speakers last night were—for the motion, Messrs. Asquith (Balliol), Ryder (Kemble), and Ranger (Worcester). Against—Messrs. Coleridge (Trinity), Gould (Trinity), the president of the union, Mr. Overy (Queen's), Spooner (Pembroke), and Cheshire (Queen's). There was a large number of ladies present during the debate.

THE BEADLE DISESTABLISHED AT ISLINGTON.—The office of beadle in the parish of Islington being vacant, a special committee of the vestry recommended that the office be considered a secular one, that certain duties appertaining to it be discontinued, and that the beadle to be appointed be required to attend at the vestry offices on week-days and of the parish church during the Sunday services. It was stated by Mr. C. H. Elt to the vestry that the office of beadle had been in existence for upwards of a thousand years. The vestry determined that the beadle should not be required to attend at the parish church during the Sunday services, and that instead of the gold-laced coat and hat hitherto worn by the beadle, he be supplied with a plain blue uniform; and lastly, that notwithstanding the local act of Parliament and the ancient custom to the contrary, he be no longer called beadle but messenger.

THE MADAGASCAR BISHOPRIC.—This question was discussed again at a special meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, on Monday, the Archbishop of York in the chair. A letter was read from the Archbishop of Canterbury recapitulating the facts of the case, and declining in courteous terms to assume the responsibility of consecrating a bishop without the royal licence. A resolution was then moved and seconded, asking the Archbishop of Canterbury (who was known to be favourable to that method of solving the difficulty) to request the Scotch bishops to consecrate a bishop for work in Madagascar. This was carried almost unanimously, the only objector being Mr. T. Darling, who thought action should be postponed for the present, as an opinion was being taken as to the legality of the Archbishop of Canterbury consecrating without a royal licence. It was further resolved that a committee, consisting of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Primus of Scotland, and the Bishop of Edinburgh, Earl Nelson and Canon Gregory, the Master of the Charterhouse, the Rev. Berdmore Compton, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., and the Rev. P. G. Medd, should be nominated to choose a fit person to be presented to the Scotch bishops for consecration.

Religious and Denominational News.

An anonymous friend has sent Mr. Spurgeon a donation of 1,000*l.* towards the new buildings for the Pastors' College.

It is announced that the Wesleyan Methodists will have an increase in the numbers to report at their next annual conference, though not a large one.

Mr. A. W. Potts, of Spring Hill College, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Congregational Church, Crewe, to become its pastor, and will commence his ministry in August.

The Rev. J. G. Greenhough, M.A. (London) of Coseley, has accepted the invitation of the church meeting at Cotham-grove, Bristol to become their pastor, and is expected to enter upon his duties there on Sunday, June 8.

CHRISTIAN UNION IN CANADA.—Important union projects are meditated both by the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies in Canada. The former are represented by four branches, which have now suc-

ceeded, through a joint committee, in adopting a basis of union, which remains to be ratified finally by the several general assemblies. There seems to be no doubt that their action on the subject will be favourable. As to the Methodists, the Wesleyan and the New Connexion Conferences—both of them influential—have taken such steps as to render their union a certainty, and that speedily.

AMERICAN CALLS TO MINISTERS.—The Presbyterian Church in America threatens to rob the Irish Presbyterian Church of its most popular and rising young ministers. It is but a few weeks since the Rev. Hugh Smith left Whitehouse, near Belfast, for the Scotch Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, and the Rev. Samuel M. Hamilton, of Belfast, is now preparing to start for another Scotch Presbyterian Church, the congregation of which has offered him a salary of 1,200*l.* per annum. Another call has been presented to the Rev. J. H. Munroe, of Newry, by a congregation in Boston offering him 1,000*l.* with two months' leave of absence in the twelve months; and the Rev. William Todd Martin, of Newtownards, has also received a call from the Cooke Church, Toronto, the stipend promised being 3,000 dollars. Other calls are spoken of.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. S. MARTIN.—It is with deep regret we learn that the beloved minister of Westminster Chapel has been compelled by ill-health to resign the pastorate, which he has filled for so many years to the spiritual edification of a large and attached congregation. The news will be a source of surprise and sorrow to the whole of the denomination. A correspondent thus communicates the intelligence:—"A letter from the Rev. Samuel Martin to the church and congregation assembling in Westminster Chapel, was read from the pulpit last Sunday, announcing his intention to resign his pastorate as soon as a suitable successor can be appointed. The Rev. Samuel Martin has been struggling for a considerable time with declining health, and for the last twelve months continuance in his exhausting duties has been in opposition to the earnest advice of his physician, and at the continual risk of being permanently incapacitated for all work."—*English Independent*.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—On the evening of the 23rd instant, a meeting, for prayer and conference, regarding the spread of the Gospel in the neighbourhood, was held, by invitation of the minister and deacons, in the Lecture-hall of the Congregational Church, Tunbridge Wells. Forty-five gentlemen attended, including twelve ministers and lay evangelists, representing the Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, and Congregationalists, by which denominations the work of evangelising the surrounding country is, so far as Nonconformists are concerned, mainly carried on. There were also present Baptists and Lady Huntingdon Connexionists. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. Radford Thomson, M.A., and the Revs. W. Grose, Dr. Knowles, B. Dinnick, D. Harding, J. Fox, besides several laymen, took part in the proceedings. A report, concerning the state of religion in neighbouring parishes, was presented by a committee appointed at a previous conference. It was arranged that certain spiritually destitute hamlets should be visited, either by lay preachers belonging to one of the denominations, or by a conjoint deputation; and it was decided in some instances to commence with out-door preaching during the ensuing summer. A very happy, harmonious, and devotional spirit pervaded the meeting.

Correspondence.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT DIVISION.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—In the letter of mine which you inserted last week, I stated that the list of those members who were prevented from voting for Mr. Miall's motion by the early division did not profess to be complete, and I am now able to add to it the names of Mr. Villiers, Mr. Plimsoll, Sir Charles Wingfield, and Mr. Whalley.

That makes, with the votes, tellers, and pairs, ninety-nine supporters of the motion—as against ninety-six in 1871, and 109 in support of the motion for inquiry into Church property.

I subjoin a comparative statement of the divisions on the three several motions which Mr. Miall has submitted to the House of Commons. It shows, among other things, that, while Mr. Miall's followers have not diminished since 1871, his opponents are only six more than they were in that year. It also shows that Dr. Lee, the Secretary to the Church Defence Institution, was in error in stating—as he has done in the *Times*—that "in 1872 Mr. Miall counted, including tellers and pairs, 122"—that being thirteen more than the real number.

Your obedient servant,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

2, Serjeants'-Inn, May 26.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF DIVISIONS.

	1871.	1872.	1873.
Voted for the motion .	89	94	61
Tellers	2	2	2
Pairs	5	13	29
Shut out			7
Total	96	109	99
Against the motion .	374	295	356
Tellers	2	2	2
Pairs	5	13	29
Total	381	310	387

Six members who voted against the motion of 1871 voted for that of 1872 (for inquiry). Seven members who voted for inquiry in 1872, voted or paired against the motion of 1873.

THE LATE DEFEAT.—NONCONFORMISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—An occasion of great gravity has come upon us, and our adherence to the principles we have long maintained will demand that we should come to some distinct decision as to the policy of Nonconformists. We have been informed by the Liberal Prime Minister with unmistakeable clearness that religious equality has nothing more to expect from him; and the recent legislation of the Government has been in perfect harmony with such an avowal. It has been understood—perhaps a cheat we put upon ourselves—that for the control of the education policy of the Government Mr. Forster alone was responsible, and that when the defects of the measure were made manifest, the Liberal Ministry would be willing to amend it. They have at least shown no alacrity in doing so; and Mr. Gladstone's recent speech may well reduce our expectations to the smallest proportions. Nonconformists have nothing to expect from the present Ministry, and it ought to be decided whether the present Ministry has anything to expect from Nonconformists.

I freely acknowledge that it is more easy to threaten desertion than to carry out the resolution. Our history in the past and our instincts to-day are in favour of adherence to a party with which we have been associated so long, and with whose help we have won what has been already obtained. It is true we have usually served the Liberal party for twice seven years before we have been granted the promised favour, but hitherto patience and fidelity have at length been rewarded with the crumbs that fell from the Prime Minister's table. The importance of the present crisis, however, arises from the fact that a Liberal Ministry has become retrograde in its ecclesiastical and educational policy, and it ought to be determined whether our first allegiance is not due to our principles. We are not specially interested in furthering Mr. Gladstone's personal ambition. It matters not to us who may be Minister; it only matters how far the Minister of the day may give support to our questions. It is fidelity to these that must govern our conduct in the future. With many of us the first and supreme consideration—that which is the element in our political life, that without which we should scarcely meddle with politics at all—is the promotion of religious equality.

What course will best promote this great end? I do not profess to answer this question, but I think it will have to be answered, and answered speedily. Assuredly we can take no pleasure in seeing the Tories in power. As a party they have shown themselves not only politically stupid, which is their misfortune, but politically immoral, which is their crime. We should not see them lifted to the elevation they expect without beginning to desire and to work for their fall. Under these circumstances the policy of Nonconformists ought to be settled by conference and discussion. Events have moved rapidly since the Manchester meeting, and the arguments then advanced for decisive action have increased in force. The one point calling for settlement is, will fidelity to party or abstention from it most promote the cause we serve? That settled, our course is clear. We shall get nothing from this Government, and if the Tories come in, we shall get nothing from the next. It may be that the Liberals in opposition may come to be more clear-sighted both as to principle and policy than Liberals in power. They may have to "learn in suffering" what they are one day to "teach in song." There is some scorn now of "the blazing principle." I seem already to hear the statesmanlike speeches which will be made by some future Minister, and the able leaders on the speeches of the statesmanlike Minister when it shall blaze up again. Enough that Mr. Gladstone is an extinct volcano.

At some time and place, in greater or less numbers, Nonconformists ought to be assembled to come to a positive and distinct agreement as to their course in the next general election. It ought to be well considered in order that the resolve may be faithfully kept.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. W. PARKINSON.

Rochdale, May 23.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR,—The result of Mr. Miall's motion appears to me to suggest the following suggestions:—1st. That the Premier, the members of the House of Commons, and the constituencies in general, are not sufficiently impressed with the importance of the subject to make immediate legislation thereon expedient. 2nd. That the tactics by which the motion was so summarily disposed of, may be attributed quite as much to the fear of a damaging discussion to the prospects of a majority of the candidates at the next election, as to the hostility of the present members to the subject itself. 3rd. That all parties in and out of the House of Commons are well convinced that the principles of "religious equality" have taken deep root in the public mind, and their growth and ultimate accomplishment, ending in the disestablishment of the Episcopalian and Presbyterian Churches, is simply a question of time. 4th. That any pettish or

hasty condemnation of opponents, or threats of desertion of the Liberal party at the next election, will not be either right or expedient. We can afford to wait: we cannot afford to lose our temper or throw ourselves into the arms of the Tory party, which would doubtless be glad of our severance from firmer friends without adding to our friendships. 5th. We should assure our talented and courageous leader Mr. Miall of our continued sympathy and support. 6th. We should "Agitate! agitate! agitate!" [afresh, and with increased earnestness.

In the Sunday-school, the Bible-class, the pulpit, the press, and on the platform, everywhere, "Religious equality" and speedy disestablishment should be made the topic, the requirement, the demand of every one who desires to have religion freed from all secular control. "Let her be free."

So far as my experience goes, I find even amongst Dissenters there is a sad lack of knowledge and zeal on the subject, especially amongst the "well-to-do" dissenters. Many of our young couples think they are scarcely safe if they are not married by an Episcopal clergyman and in a church of the "olden times." Others do not like to discuss the subject in mixed company, because it seems bigoted or likely to cause difference of opinion. Many of our ministers refer to the subject, in and out of the pulpit, with "bated breath," if at all, and on all hands there is very much to be done to hasten on the "consummation so devoutly to be wished for." But when the people take up this question with a determination and zeal which cannot be mistaken, then, and not till then, will the end come of a "State Church"; for that, like the Test and Corporation Acts, the Corn Laws, Church-rates, and the Irish Church, must fall before that strongest of human forces—the power of public opinion. "May God speed the right."

I am, Mr. Editor, yours very truly,
EBENEZER CLARKE.
Grove-road, Walthamstow, May 28, 1873.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Is it not desirable that at an early period a conference of Nonconformists be held to consider what steps they should take at the next general election in consequence of the recent trick practised on them in the House of Commons? It may be prudent to allow a few weeks to elapse before the meeting is called, lest if a very decided course of action be deemed advisable, it should be thought that we had come to such decision in a moment of irritation. It is plain that Nonconformists have nothing to expect from a sense of justice on the part of the so-called Liberals in the House of Commons. Nonconformists are welcomed by these pretended Liberals just so long as they can be used as hacks to the Whigs. Beyond this, the "shabby Whigs" care not one straw for them. Gladstone appears to have been in league with the open and with the secret foes of Nonconformity to smother all debate on the establishment question. He succeeded. So did Pyrrhus in defeating the Romans. But success managed by trickery can only serve a very temporary purpose. A Prime Minister whose son has been in "holy orders" but two years, and yet is in possession of a living of three thousand a year, will never do justice to Nonconformists. It cannot be expected that he will be an advocate of religious equality. To conciliate the Conservatives and to snub advanced Liberals is his policy and that of his Cabinet. Like Palmerston, he has achieved great success—in disorganising, if not in demoralising, the Liberal party in the House of Commons. Is it not high time now for Nonconformists to understand each other's views in relation to him and to his following?

I am, yours truly,
W. GRIFFITH.
Derby, May 24.

WHAT NEXT?

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The above inquiry of your correspondent from Cambridge last week is the question of the hour for Nonconformists. I have felt for some time that a fatal lassitude is stealing over Dissent. The spiritual enervation consequent upon the abounding luxury and the materialistic philosophy taught so generally from the pulpit and the press, is telling upon our political life. Our heart seems to be petrifying. That sublime loyalty to pure principle which characterised the illustrious fathers of Protestant Nonconformity seems to be in danger of being buried beneath the pomp and circumstance of our modern ecclesiasticism. The great men of to-day are the projectors of magnificent temples, and success means the ability to expend fabulous sums in their erection. I was struck in reading over the long list of imaginary excellences which a recent ministerial export from an adjoining county to that heaven of parsondom the metropolis was credited with, to find not one word about the spiritual power of the man. It was all about bricks and mortar, pounds, shillings, and pence. I remember a good story illustrative of this same sort of thing which was told me by a young minister some years ago. Calling upon an elderly member of his order one day, he was introduced to the good man's wine-cellar. A bottle of port was uncorked, and a glass presented to my young friend. "That wine, sir," remarked the worthy senior, "is worth a guinea a

bottle. When you can give a brother parson such a glass of wine, you may say that you have succeeded in the ministry." I am often reminded of the truly Apostolic axiom of this well-to-do cleric.

Much of the Church intelligence which you and your contemporaries are called on to record from week to week is a sort of amplification of it. We seem to have added a fresh beatitude to the Masters' list. "Blessed is the man," say we, "who has a church with stained-glass windows, well-cushioned seats, and no poor people in it."

One of the most pathetic passages in Thomas Cooper's interesting Autobiography is his lament over the change wrought by prosperity on the characters of his artisan friends. When life's battle was a rough and tiresome one for them, years ago, they were full of political enthusiasm and zeal; but now that they are filled with plenty, leanness seems to have entered their souls. Is it not somewhat the same with us all? What means that beggarly exhibition in the House of Commons on Friday night week? Why was our illustrious leader so feebly supported? When Carey went forth, more than half a century ago, to attack the venerable institution of Hindooism, he had the moral support of a band of earnest men who bravely held the ropes for him. The work of Mr. Miall on this Friday was scarcely less sublime than Carey's, and the demand for enthusiastic support, from every section of Protestants, not one whit less urgent and imperative. And yet—tell it not in Gath!—we fairly let go the rope. Not a voice to back up the earnest pleader for the right! . . . But "what next"? I answer most emphatically—redoubled energy, renewed zeal, reconsecration to the work.

Henceforth we must take it up as our life work. Every other political question must be subordinated to it. The rapid spread of sacramentarianism in the Established Church makes its disestablishment and disendowment the first duty of every British Protestant. Nothing is of any moment in comparison with it. If it should be the will of the Supreme Disposer of events that there should be a resurrection in this country of the deadly superstition which martyrs and confessors have sealed their protest against with their life-blood, we will bow our heads submissively to the profound mystery. But complicity in the infinite fraud upon humanity we will have none. All that mortal man, energised by the Eternal Spirit, can do to avert the appalling catastrophe we must do. And it must be done at once. Our peace-at-any-price clergy must exchange the dulcimer for the war-trump. The rector's smile and the vicar's embrace must be done with for awhile. And tradesmen must face the much-dreaded contingency of "no further orders" from the squire. Self-sacrificing devotion to truth must once more become a reality amongst us. It has long been little more than a precious memory or a pious dream in our midst.

The Black Friday of this month must be to us what the so-called Good Friday of the Church is to Christendom—a memory, a rebuke, and an inspiration. Thus may we repeat the history of many a noble cause, and date our victory from the hour of our most signal defeat.

I would urge upon the executive of the Liberation Society more energetic action in our rural districts. Public opinion is pretty well matured upon the subject in all our large towns and cities. And it is not there where the evils of the State Church are felt and seen. If you want to find out where the shoe pinches, come, as Mr. Neave said the other day at Exeter Hall, to the rural districts. Here you will see the social Upas tree in all its glory. In scores of our villages, to be a Dissenter is to be a social pariah. If you can be bought, so much the better for your peace; but if you happen to have the stuff in you that led one of old to choose suffering with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, why you may safely reckon on getting the full benefit of your choice. Suffering, abuse, misrepresentation, and worldly loss you shall have to satiety. Little children from the parish school shall flee from your embrace as from something ecclesiastically accursed. You are one who has dared to reject the pious offices of God's priest! The blessed sacraments which he has received Divine power to invest with saving efficacy you have blasphemously counted as unholy things! Awful transgressor! Beware, that the ground which swallowed up Korah and the other Dissenters of old does not open to receive you!

Now, of course, if these priests were like those whom they mimic of the Romish Church, free from State-patronage and control, we should pay very little attention to their cursing. But it is "hard lines" to have to pay some sixty or seventy pounds a year as tithes to a man whose main work consists in teaching your servants and their children all this about you. So that some tolerably cordial sympathy, as well as plenty of the other thing, awaits the anti-State Church lecturer in country places.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR CLAYDEN.
Faringdon, May 26, 1873.

A NEW DAILY PAPER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The letter of Mr. Arthur Clayden, in your last issue, ably expresses the opinions and convictions which

many of us have entertained for a long period. With the lapse of time, and with the recurrence of grave political and ecclesiastical crises, it is felt in an increasing measure that Nonconformist views and principles are most inadequately set forth by the metropolitan daily press. London and the home counties are far behind the provinces in this respect. Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Bristol, Plymouth, and other towns are in advance of London, in having journals wherein our most cherished convictions are worthily represented, and fair prominence is given to matters in which all the free churches of the kingdom are deeply concerned. But in this huge metropolis, and in the vast district comprised within a radius of fifty miles, there is not one daily newspaper which does us common justice. Parliamentary debates on subjects of transcendent moment, and the proceedings of public bodies in which Nonconformists at large are vitally concerned, are slurred over, or ignored, or treated with contempt; while a prurient trial, or a boat race, or some sporting event, or an atrocious crime can secure several columns, often devoted to details which pollute or terrify. Many of your readers can no more endure the gush of maudlin sentiment and the mock heroics indulged in by the *Telegraph*, than they can the rabid Toryism and avowed enmity of the *Standard*, or the tergiversation and veering of the *Times*. They are therefore shut up to that "best Liberal paper," the *Daily News*. Its readers are largely made up of the members of our Free Churches; and yet it shrinks with horror from being regarded as a Nonconformist organ. For the sake of appearances, an article, or a detailed report on some subject of vital concern to us, is now and again allowed to appear; but for some months past, such articles have become less and less frequent, and their tone, never pronounced and vigorous, has become feeble. The policy now seems to be to "damn with faint praise," where absolute silence is impossible. It is generally understood that there are in the background two sets of contending forces, and certainly "the world, the flesh, and the devil," usually appear to assert the supremacy.

It is best, Sir, to speak plainly on this matter. By all means, if the present conductors of the *Daily News* imagine that their two or three columns of sporting intelligence, and four or five columns devoted to the Tichborne trial, with full particulars of murders and of every sensational event, contribute to the sale of the paper, let them continue in their chosen line. But they ought to be informed, if they are not already aware, that such pabulum is rejected by many of us, and by a greater number than they suppose. I have opportunities of mingling freely with the various sections of our Free Churches, and not a day passes without strong complaints being heard of sins of omission and of commission on the part of the journal now being animadverted upon. It is noteworthy also that these complaints are increasing in number and force. The paper is taken simply in default of any other. All the time there is a deep and growing dissatisfaction with its policy, and a feeling of just indignation that social, political, and ecclesiastical topics of the first importance are passed by, or, what is worse, are treated in a mild and hesitating fashion. Of course, the question has come pretty much to be a financial one, and the array of advertisements may be triumphantly pointed to. Notwithstanding this, if another and a thoroughly Liberal daily paper were started, it is absolutely certain that the circulation of the *Daily News* would be at once diminished to a serious extent; and how many days' purchase would the advertisements then be worth? I venture to suggest whether, as a mere matter of policy, it is worth while to risk the alienation of a large and important body of readers, who certainly number one-half, and probably more, of the constituents of the paper. If its conductors are wise, and if they have understanding to discern the times, they will seize upon the great occasion which is being offered to become the guides and leaders of those who form the true rank and file of the Liberal party. A mighty wave of public opinion is setting in for the securing of full religious equality and for the carrying of certain much-needed questions of national and domestic reform. Upon the flood-tide of that wave any journal having the needful skill, and courage, and honesty, may be carried to assured victory! The march of events in the order of Providence is bringing into prominence truths for which our fathers suffered and fought, and the march will not be stayed by the resistance, or neutrality, or scorn of *soi-disant* Liberal newspapers.

Is not the remedy, however, mainly in our own hands? Mr. Arthur Clayden urges the establishment of another journal. Why not? If the *Daily News* scorns or despises its true vocation, by all means let the attempt be made. It is a question mainly for London and the surrounding counties. All our great provincial towns are now on a perfect equality with the metropolis as to news, owing to the various press agencies, and by means of the nightly telegraph. The comments on passing events, and the general literary matter of the papers issued in those towns, are in every respect equal to the London press. With the exception, perhaps, of the *Times*, the daily journals of the metropolis have but a restricted circulation in the country, when the vast increase of the inhabitants is taken into account. Millionaire manufacturers in

Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the leaders of advanced Liberal opinion in the midland counties, are not likely to undertake the principal burden of establishing a new London daily paper. Doubtless they would assist in the enterprise, but the chief work must be done in the metropolis and the southern counties. Some of us have talked of this for several years. More than once initial and experimental steps have been taken. But the disastrous fate of the *Dial* project has deterred some, and the heavy responsibilities connected with such an undertaking have alarmed others. The *Dial*, however, failed inevitably, and through sheer incompetency. For a newspaper to be successfully started, something more than money is needed. True, there must be a capital of at least 100,000*l.*, so as to meet the enormous daily outgoings until a remunerative sale and profitable advertisements can be secured. But in addition to the money power, common sense, and business tact, and some special aptitude are essential. Most men suppose that they can do three things—drive a horse, steer a ship, and edit a newspaper. Those who have had anything to do with the last, have come to place a lower estimate on their own abilities. To be an "able editor," whom Carlyle so heartily abuses, requires a combination of gifts rarely found in one man. I should have less fear and trouble in obtaining the finances needful to the establishment of a paper, than in meeting with the men exactly suited to direct its literary and business affairs. Nothing is easier than to dissipate a fortune in ill-judged newspaper ventures.

Practically, however, something might be done. Why should not a halfpenny morning paper be started? It need only be half the size of the present penny journals, but that space, carefully used, would suffice for an accurate digest of news, especially if the Parliamentary reports were curtailed. Not one reader in fifty wades through the columns of verbiage which now fill the papers during the session; most of them being content with the abstract which all the journals now give. For general intelligence, the same channels are open to all by payment. The old days of special expresses, and of exclusive news, have passed away. Skilful sub-editing is alone required in this department. But such a paper should give special attention to all matters of home reform, to the claims of the nascent empires in our colonies, to the internal development of India, to the promotion of thorough unity among all English-speaking peoples, to the spread of Christianity at home and abroad, to the growing demands for intellectual and spiritual freedom, and to the development of all that is truly righteous and noble among men. Why should not all sections of the numerous, intelligent, and powerful free churches, including all branches of the great Methodist family, unite in such a holy war? Might not philanthropists and social economists, who have devoted themselves to the diffusion of peace and goodwill on earth, and to the diminution of poverty and crime, accept the aid of a respectable paper which they could help to establish? The Anti-Corn-Law League could not have accomplished its great mission within so short a time but for the journal which it started, and by means of which tens of thousands were reached and convinced whom it was impossible to touch by any other agency. Are there not ten men among us, having public spirit enough to devote out of their wealth 5,000*l.* each to this object, with the understanding that if a like sum in addition were needed, it should be forthcoming. To build chapels and schoolrooms, and to subscribe munificently to great works of Christian usefulness, are worthy deeds; but it is also essential to help to create and foster, especially among our young men and women, a healthy and noble public spirit. To this end, a high-toned, vigorously-written newspaper is eminently conducive.

Permit me, Sir, to ask you to be good enough to allow the subject to be discussed for a short time in your columns, in the earnest hope that some useful results may be secured.—Yours faithfully,

A.

THE TACTICS OF THE ALLIANCE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—In your leader on "The Tactics of the Alliance," you write with a courtesy and, I may say, sympathy of tone which cannot but win the thanks of every supporter of that association. It is pleasant to listen to so good-tempered a critic, and to believe that he will listen with candour to what may be advanced, with equal good temper, in reply.

At the outset, let me observe that the facts in reference to the large number of districts where no sale of liquor is licensed, are not quoted by our friends to show that it would be as easy to carry the same policy into effect in towns and great cities. The use made of them is to prove that prohibition is possible and beneficial, according to the actual experience of 230,000 persons residing in two-thirds of England alone, and thus to refute, by anticipation, a tribe of objections which take for granted that the absence of the liquor-traffic would be little or no improvement upon its presence. This done, we are in a position to inquire why other portions of the country should not be permitted by law to adopt the same experiment for themselves, especially seeing (1) that the liquor-traffic is legally supposed to exist for the public convenience only, and by the public desire; and (2) that the evils generated by that traffic are, as a rule, developed in more densely populated districts

with a luxuriance, and are marked with a virulence, unknown to sparsely inhabited localities. Where the wrong is heaviest and deepest, we argue, that there is more reason, not less, for the remedy to be at hand.

In this conclusion you seem to concur, and you express particular approval of the scheme of the National Association by which the ratepayers of each licensing division would have power to control the issue of licences therein; but you deprecate making the Permissive Bill a test question at the next general election, and you regard with alarm the probable results of a competition for candidates' pledges by the Alliance on the one side, and by the liquor interest on the other. You therefore advise that for the present the friends of the temperance reform should attach themselves "to social rather than to political agitation." Let us seriously consider what a compliance with that counsel would entail.

1. The Alliance exists for a specific object, and a suspension of its operations would be, *pro tanto*, a termination of its existence. It is conceivable that a society might act wisely in committing an act of *felo de se*, but it can hardly be called upon to extinguish itself for no other purpose than to avoid exasperating its enemies and (in its profound conviction) the enemies of the State. It is in the power of Parliament alone to grant the people the freedom claimed for them by the Alliance; but if the Alliance is to forego political action at general elections, how can it hope to impress either the people or Parliament with a belief in its sincerity? To what extent the supporters of the Alliance should make their votes conditional on promises of support by candidates is a distinct question, and no universal course of action has yet been recommended. If Mr. A., a professed Liberal, is not liberal enough to say, "I will, if returned, support a bill to allow my constituents to decide whether they will or not remove a system which cruelly oppresses them," what claim can he have for the votes of those Liberals who would prefer that measure to any other he is willing to support? How, in any case, is it possible that those who are yearning for this measure as one absolutely necessary for social reforms of the most vital kind, can consent to place it in abeyance, or treat it as of inferior consideration? Let the Alliance be dissolved to-morrow; the spirit which animates it would refuse to be quenched, or curbed, whenever it could find for itself constitutional expression.

2. But suppose the counsel given were acted upon, and the Alliance were to declare its operations suspended till after the next general election, and suppose that it could make that resolution binding on its members everywhere, what would happen?

In the first place, it would cease to exert any restraining effect upon the endeavours of the liquor interest to procure reactionary legislation.

In the second place, it would encourage the drink power to pledge every candidate to its behests, and pack the House of Commons with nominees and slaves of the barrel. The "sleeping lions" have awakened, and let the Alliance do what it may, the publicans will do what they can.

In the third place, not only would the Permissive Bill be dead, but every other reform of the licensing system would perish with it—such as the scheme of the National Association, Sunday closing, &c. The liquor interest having proved its power to crush the Alliance, would be lord of the Parliamentary sphere, for the same threats would then be brought against lesser reforms which are now reserved for the dreaded measure of the Alliance.

In short, for the Alliance to accept the counsel given, and to withdraw from the political field, would be the unkindest thing it could do for those who have in charge measures which they consider more moderate and passable.

But, on the contrary, if the Alliance persists in braving the strength of drinkdom, it will make it easier for candidates to utter such convictions as they entertain favourable to temperance legislation of some sort, and it will continue to put the other side into the position of seeking its own selfish aggrandisement at the expense of every truly liberal and generous sentiment. "Vote to keep me established, whatever I do, and whatever my neighbours think of me or suffer from me"—this is the meaning of publicans' politics. "Vote to give local powers for dealing with a local curse"—this is the meaning of Alliance politics.

So compared, I cannot believe that the *Nonconformist* would desire that the latter demand should be withdrawn in order that the former should become triumphant.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

DAWSON BURNS.

King Henry's-road, N.W., May 19, 1873.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—As an Alliance man from the formation of the movement I thank you for the able article which appeared in the *Nonconformist* a few weeks ago, and especially for the vote in Parliament yesterday week. The Alliance, I believe, is the strongest organisation, in number, money, and influence in the kingdom. It is also quite distinct in its aim and policy from all others. Any other party may take up the method you recommend in your article in the *Nonconformist* of yesterday, but that is not our policy, nor likely to be. We will render what help in our power to all who aim at diminishing drunkenness—all of them as far as they

succeed help us, and we help them; but our aim is to prohibit the cursed traffic, and we will "peg at it" until we gain our object.

Take the 1,400 parishes without a public-house. The public-houses have been removed from these places without consulting the people, and still the people do not petition your honourable House to give them the advantage like their neighbours of a public-house. But you think large towns are different. We have considerable portions in some large towns where there is no such house, and no such house is to be, and there is no riot. But we have canvassed, I believe, all the large towns, and the result was an overwhelming majority in favour of the Permissive Bill. In the town (Swansea) I had to do with; there were more thousands for than there were of hundreds against. And this was thirteen years ago. Public opinion is more ripe now. I, myself, canvassed most of this parish where I live, when Messrs. Horsman and Scrope were our M.P.'s, nearly all the electors gave their names. In this case the electors alone were canvassed. And last year I believe the largest petitions ever sent to Parliament from our largest towns were on this question. There is another fact worthy of notice, which, I fear, is but little known to the Houses of Parliament. It is the lowest parts of our towns, where the poor live, and where they are cursed with public-houses, are the most favourable to our movement. I can give you astounding facts, if you wish it on this point, on the Sunday-closing especially. We find the rich, the West-end, always behind, under the pretence of serving the poor man; but the poor man would be very thankful if they helped him to remove his greatest curse. The fear of dividing the Liberals will not, and must not, interfere with our work. You know my views on many important questions. I shall ever feel thankful to the present Government for the greatest service ever rendered by any Government—I allude to the Alabama question. But we are in earnest in this matter. We have asked our representatives four or five times to give us the power to deal with the drink traffic. They have said no, you shall not, but we will thrust public-houses on you whether you wish them or not. This is being done every year by means of two or three magistrates in many cases, who take precious care to plant such houses far enough from their own houses, but force them on the poor, in many instances against their expressed wishes. Now, do not be surprised when the time comes, if we say to your hon. House, Gentlemen, you refuse us power to deal with this local matter of drink, which we consider, as Mr. Cobden did, "is at the root of all reforms," and in our estimation of far more importance than all other reforms put together; now you are not the men to whom we will entrust national affairs, turn aside and give place to men who will say, This is certainly more their business than ours, so let them manage it just as they think proper. Whatever party that will side with the drink will be crushed. It is worthy of notice, also, that England alone stands in the way, the other three divisions of the kingdom by an overwhelming majority have passed the Permissive Bill.

Yours ever truly,

E. JACOB.

Ebley, May 15, 1873.

"THE PRETENSIONS OF ULTRAMONTANISM"—ERRATA.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to correct your report of my speech at Finsbury Chapel, on Friday week, in one or two material particulars? I am represented as explaining that Ultramontane meant "on the other side of the House," "and had been used by the Italians to describe those on the opposite side of the House of Legislature." This is cruel nonsense, evolved from the consciousness of the reporter. What I did say, as given in another account of the meeting, was this, Ultramontane "means on the other side of the Alps." It has been employed by Italians who live on one side to describe the opinions on the Papal authority held by persons living on the other side, and the Northern Europeans have likewise called the Italians Ultramontanists, thus returning the epithet back when it came. The word has had two distinct applications, and has been used by two opposite parties. It was applied to those in France, Germany, and Great Britain who would limit the jurisdiction of the Pope to spiritual affairs; and it was also applied to those in Italy who were arrogantly claiming for the Vicar of Christ at Rome supreme authority alike in matters civil and spiritual. Then I proceeded to explain its present meaning, but there was not a word about "Legislature." The reporter also runs two or three distinct quotations into one paragraph. The words of Archbishop Manning, as given by me, were not "I am a Catholic first, and an Englishman secondly," but "I am a Catholic first, and all the rest comes after." Then the quotation on education is not only incorrectly given, but the point of it is lost. The following is what I said:—

Let me give you some Catholic statistics on this head. "The education of each child," says a Catholic paper, "it is calculated costs 1*l.* 10*s.* Already we have 100,000 children under our education, costing 150*l.* per annum. Of this, 50,000*l.*, or one-third, has been given by the State, and by school-pence and subscriptions we have raised each year 100,000*l.* We have now undertaken the education of 180,000 children, the expense of which

will be 270,000. Of this, the State is pledged to contribute 185,000, provided we contribute a like sum." Now, look at it, face it well—that is the result of denominational teaching. You Protestants are contributing at least one-half the cost of the education of the children of Romanists—not educating them simply in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and all other secular affairs, in which I should heartily rejoice, but educating them to become adherents of the Pope, disloyal subjects of the realm, and propagators of those terrible heresies from which the Reformation in part set us free.

Again, I did not quote from "a recent speech" of Dr. Manning's, as your reporter represents me as saying. I am sorry to trouble you with this complaint, and I have tried to be charitable to the reporter by supposing that a week of May meetings, or of speeches from Congregationalists, was really too much for him, and he succumbed at the concluding one. With all good-will towards that much-enduring class of literary workers,

I am, yours truly,

WILLIAM BRADEN.

Portland-place, Clapton, May 26, 1873.

Anniversary Meetings.

COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society took place at Finsbury Chapel on Thursday evening, the 15th inst. The chair was taken by the Rev. Thomas Binney. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer.

After a few introductory words from the CHAIRMAN, the SECRETARY read an abstract of the annual report.

The TREASURER (Mr. Spicer) read a statement of the accounts. The receipts were 3,483*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*; the expenditure, 4,792*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; leaving a deficit of 1,309*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* The Treasurer said that the committee intended to look up their ministerial friends for congregational collections during the year. They had not supported in that particular as they ought to have been. The British mission collections did not include anything like half the Congregational churches. There was scarcely a congregation in England in which there were not persons who had relatives or friends in Australia where this society was sending the Gospel of Christ, and therefore the society had a claim for help upon the congregations. He hoped that the present year would see the society out of its difficulties. Those difficulties had been brought about by the society taking up the Bush Mission, which, in many cases, had been very successful, and was doing a great amount of good service. This work was of a very costly kind, and would be a perpetual expense. Either the Bush Mission must be given up, or the funds of the society must be increased.

The CHAIRMAN said he was surprised and sorry at the small amount of the annual contributions, and stated that a memoir of the life, labours, and travels of the late Rev. Mr. Poore, who had journeyed two or three times round the world in the service of the society, had been written by Mr. Corbin, of Hornsey, and that it made a very interesting volume. He meant to get up a guarantee fund to secure those who were interested, and proposed to head it himself with 10*l.*

The Rev. JOSHUA HARRISON moved—

That the report, which has been in part read, with the statement of accounts, be adopted; that it be printed and circulated under the direction of the committee; and that the gentlemen whose names follow be the officers and committee for the next year.

He should not occupy a very great deal of time with any remarks of his own, because there were gentlemen on the platform whom he was sure the meeting wished to hear. The treasurer had said that he intended to look up some of the ministers, and to see that they did their work a little better in making collections for the society; and in saying that the treasurer turned his eye upon him (Mr. Harrison) as much as to say, "We shall begin with you." He was happy to say that he had begun a long time ago. He never missed having a collection for the society in any year, and therefore he hoped that if the treasurer looked to him at all, he would look at him as a model of all that was proper in that respect. (Laughter.) If all the brethren would follow his example, the society would have a very much larger amount than it had now. Last time he preached for the society he took a paper on Bush Missions, which had been sent to him by the secretary; and, after saying a very few words of his own, he read a good deal of the paper to the people, and the consequence was that they were more interested in colonial work than they had ever been before, and gave one of the best collections. He was persuaded that if the churches knew something of those Bush Missions they would be exceedingly anxious to sustain them.

The Rev. DAVID NIMMO, in seconding the resolution said he had visited the principal towns in Australia and New Zealand, and he was therefore able to say that a good work was being carried on in those colonies. There was great ignorance at home as to our Australian colonies, from which they suffered a loss of sympathy—

They possess, if they do not occupy, a territory which is nearly as large as Europe, continental in dimensions, although insular in configuration. A large portion of the seaboard of that immense territory is organised into colonies. There is Western Australia, as yet in an incipient state. There is South Australia, with Adelaide for its capital, with its corn, and its copper, and its wine. There is Victoria, with Melbourne for its capital, with its gold, and its flocks, and its herds, and its

merchandise. And there is New South Wales of which Sydney is the capital, and of which Mr. Graham is the representative. New South Wales, is the oldest, and perhaps the richest, of all the Australian colonies. There is Queensland, with its cotton, and its sugar, and its mines. And there is Tasmania, about 200 miles south of Victoria, with its beautiful cities, Launceston and Hobart. And all these colonies, thus organised, have their own legislatures, their own governors, and their own armies and navies, such as they are, and they support all without costing the mother country a penny. Now, these colonists in Australia are worth more than a similar number of persons at home in a corresponding rank of life. They are more valuable in consequence of their character for energy, and enterprise, and forethought; for the very fact that they have gone forth from this country, and have sought in Australia a home, and have so successfully colonised it, is a proof of that energy and forethought of character. They are peculiarly valuable politically, for they have solved in the course of their history some of the most difficult problems of State polity. They have shown that it is safe to extend the franchise to the extent of the manhood of the colony, not to the extent of the womanhood yet. I think they will have the mother country to lead the way in that. They have also manifested the wisdom of secret voting by the ballot; and they have also shown the wisdom of the maxim of Cavour, of "a free Church in a free State," by separating the one from the other, by withdrawing all endowments from all bodies of religionists there. Further, they are now trying as an experiment a free, secular, and compulsory system of education. And, if I may venture a word upon this most delicate question, on which so many good and wise men differ, I would presume upon the indulgence of those in the meeting who differ from me; I would say that the result of this experiment will prove that it is both logically and practically a wise thing for our rulers not to attempt to teach religion any more in the school than in the church; any more by the teacher than by the preacher; any more through the Bible than through the catechism. (Cheers.)

These colonies were amongst our best customers, and their population were equal to if not superior in their work and contributions to Christian people at home. They will be the future kingdoms and republics of those regions; and those nations will be formed on Christian principles, and permeated with a Christian spirit. They plant these nations in the midst of a region inhabited by heathen; for, on the one side, there were the islands of the great Pacific, and, on the other side, the islands of the Indian Archipelago, like great giant stepping-stones, leading from China to Tasmania. Chinese were flocking into the Australian colonies now. In his judgment, it was impossible for Christian principles to be exemplified in national life, and brought into close contact with those heathen peoples, without producing a very important indirect influence. It was well they should not lose sight of the great value of the agency of Christian missions; but it would be very unwise for them to forget the great influence which Christian colonisation had upon the evangelisation of the whole earth. The enthusiasm shown by the gold diggers in their search for the precious metals was needed by Christians both at home and abroad. In conclusion, the speaker expressed his gratitude to Mr. Binney for the invaluable services he had rendered to Christian missions in the colonies.

The Rev. PAXTON HOOD then moved:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the British colonies still present important spheres for missionary labour; that especially the spiritual destitution of the bush districts of Australia calls for the systematic labour of itinerant missionaries, who shall carry the Gospel to the scattered settlements; and it commends the society to the continued confidence of the Congregational churches, and to the liberal support of the lovers of true and vital Christianity.

In the course of a lively and characteristic speech he said:—"We of the British churches owe it to ourselves, to our conscience, to our character; we owe it to our wealth; we owe it to that grand future which looks on yonder to the time when those isles shall wake up into nations, and those dusky solitudes wake up into kingdoms and perhaps into empires; we owe it to them to give out the word of life so that they may wake up from their barbarism. I have had tales told me by men who were members of churches here, and belonged to Sunday-schools here, and they have gone out there; and they have told me that the bush in some places has sank down into arrant and utter barbarism, so entire has been the forgetfulness and the loss of the old religious usages and modes of life. And the white man becomes a barbarian when he travels into solitudes. You must save him from sinking so low."

The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM, of Sydney (late of Craven Chapel, London), in seconding the motion said, he had only arrived in London on the preceding day, and was hardly prepared to speak. His friend Mr. Nimmo had built a most beautiful church, and his leaving had left a fearful gap in the ministry of New South Wales. He rejoiced in the reviving interest of British politicians in regard to the connection of the colonists with Great Britain, which had rekindled their enthusiasm for the old country, and their love to the British people and to the British churches. At the same time, but for that society and but for some noted men in it, and most notably, Mr. Binney, they would have but little proof in the colonies of the deep interest that British churches had in them. He could say emphatically that he was not disappointed in going out to Australia and becoming the minister of Pitt-street Church, Sydney, and as a proof he should freely elect to return to that place, and labour among those people, and work for God among them as the chosen sphere of his life. They had been enabled in that church to do something for God, and something for the future of that colony. In consequence of their church being too small, he had pro-

posed to build a second, but they could not get a site, and enlarged their building at a cost of 11,000*l.*, for building, and 2,500*l.* for land, which had long since been liquidated. He thought it was no discredit to British Nonconformity, and that very few houses of God in Britain, in connection with their body, could, perhaps, be compared to it. Then they had built schools, but he could not say some of them were proud of their entirely secular system, though it was necessary in their present divided state of religious sentiment. But if education was to be secular, the Church of Christ should be awakened to its very depths, and it should give Sunday-school and Bible instruction, for, otherwise, a community without the Book of God, and without the sentiments which that Book inspired, would be a ship without helm or compass, and would go to wreck on some fatal shore. Their schools had cost some 3,300*l.*, which had all been cleared off. But they were not satisfied with building. They had organised a Christian Instruction Society, like that at Craven Chapel, had built a missionary church, engaged a missionary to do God's work in the darkest and foulest places of Sydney, and had a variety of organisations in connection with their Christian Instruction Society. He did not think the churches of Australia fell short of the churches in Britain in zeal, in liberality, in earnest devotedness to God and His work. His brethren laboured zealously, and they lived in unity and love working together for Christ. Among them were the Revs. T. Johnson, G. G. Howden, and J. G. Fraser, M.A., who laboured heart and soul in Christ's cause. They had had some experience in bush work, and had formed several churches, and found the people ready to receive them. He had spent eight days at the diggings, and never in his life preached to congregations more enthusiastic than those brawny, bearded, powerful men that gathered in to hear the Word of God there. Mr. Graham then related how a noted bushranger had stopped a coach in which was a magistrate, who said to the bushranger, "You dare not rob me; I am a justice of the peace." The man put a revolver to the head of the magistrate, and, with a terrible oath, he said, "I would rob you, or I would blow your brains out, even if you were the Rev. John Graham." This he (Mr. G.) took to be a very high compliment. The bushranger had heard of him as a person who was well known, or he would not have made him a standard. Then they had established Camden College, which had been of inestimable service to the colony and the denomination there. Some eighteen young men had been or were being educated there. Some had gone to New Zealand. He thought the work of God had been going on in New South Wales in a satisfactory way. What could British Christians do for them out there?

Well, I say we want more Christian ministers. We cannot educate them fast enough for the work. The attractions of secular life and the prospects of gain are so great out there that it is an enormous sacrifice for a young man of talent and ability to enter the work of the ministry. We have great difficulties in our way in this direction. And you who have old-established churches, of course, have in your churches persons of wealth, and leisure, and thought, and meditation. We do expect that from your members many will devote themselves to the work of the ministry; and we wish that you would send some men of the right stamp to do God's work in Australia. Depend upon it, however, that the men that come out must be prepared to work. They must be prepared to work hard, to take long rides, and to "endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ." I had often admired Mr. Paley's sagacious remark that one proof of the Divine wisdom was found in the wonderful packing of the human constitution, in putting so much into so little space, and binding it well together. I never, however, felt the force of the remark so much as after riding a hundred miles on a bush coach, and bearing all the ups and downs of a journey through the bush, or after riding thirty or forty miles a day on horseback through the bush, as I have done, to preach in certain places. He must be prepared to bear jolting, ups and downs, and hardness. We want men of strong bodies and fervent spirits. I do not say that we should send our friend Mr. Hood riding a hundred miles through the bush. He would require a gradual initiation of about forty miles a day. (Laughter.) We will not overwork him.

They wanted also a library for Camden College, and should be thankful for a present of 500 volumes. He wanted also their prayers and sympathies. He had been away only nine years, but his heart had yearned to see them all again, to rekindle the fire at their altar, and to carry back to his brethren an emphatic expression of their sympathy, love, and co-operation with them in the work of God. (Applause.)

The resolution was supported by Mr. ALLPORT, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held at Finsbury Chapel on Wednesday evening week; Charles Reed, Esq., M.P., in the chair. Amongst the gentlemen present on the platform were—Andrew Dunn, Esq.; the Revs. C. Clemons, of Nottingham, Dr. M'Aslane, G. D. Macgregor, J. De K. Williams, G. Gogery, W. Tyler, and J. H. Wilson. After prayer by the Rev. J. D. Kewer Williams,

The CHAIRMAN, after some remarks on the present sad history of Ireland, and the but very partially successful attempts to pacify her by legislative remedies, said that it rested with spiritually-minded people, it rested with people who had power

with God, to prevail; it rested with Him alone to work out this great problem, which was so difficult to understand by men who merely took a worldly view of the question. The people were generous, but priest-ridden. When it was considered that four-fifths of the people were priest-ridden they could understand what the difficulty was in Ireland. Order, and liberty, and commerce, and manufactures (which, by the way, were increasing very much in the north of Ireland, where the Gospel was most found) would follow in the train of the efforts of this society, and then his hearers would find the reward sought by the society for the last fifty years. The Congregational body should labour in Ireland; but the Congregational body should not act as Congregationalists, but as Christian evangelists. (Hear, hear.) The Presbyterians were strong in Ireland, and they worked with the Congregationalists, and therefore their cause was strengthened. Their object was to free the people from the bonds under which they laboured. In many parts of Ireland the church was doing good work, doing a noble work, achieving a work as great as was achieved by many foreign missions. The men engaged had submitted to great privations, and had done useful services, deserving the society's thanks. In addition, they had lay agents, who went amongst the people and visited from house to house; so that churches were formed, and stations fixed, and services here and there held, and schools begun; and in that way was done what could be, without any great parade, but with effect, throughout the country. The Chairman said that in consequence of Dr. Fraser being obliged to leave early, the report would be postponed till he had spoken.

The Rev. Dr. DONALD FRASER said he had been in bed all day, and had only got out in order to keep his promise to attend the meeting. (Cheers.) During his last visit to Ireland it was the impression on his mind that the work was in some degree prospering, but at the same time the people were ill affected and ill at ease. Another thing struck him—the hot climate there—speaking intellectually. There was so much heat, so much animosity, that it would be terrible to live there were it not for the playful mood of the people themselves, which seemed much to alleviate what appeared to a Scotchman a terribly hasty disposition. The Celtic temperament took more readily to devotion than that of the cold-blooded Saxons. Popery had misguided, spoiled, degraded to a large extent the whole of that religious temperament, so to say. The society was going to work for the Lord. It was not interfering needlessly. It was opposing Popery in the very best way and the best spirit, and doing the best thing it could for the welfare of Ireland, and for the glory of God; because they were endeavouring to enlighten the blind piety of Ireland and break off the chains of superstition from the mind of the people, and draw that mind to the truths of the glorious Gospel. (Cheers.) Dr. Fraser then formally moved the resolution on the report.

The SECRETARY (the Rev. William Tarbotton) read the report, which set forth the continued conviction of the committee that the only remedy for the evils which existed in Ireland was to be founded in the "blessed Gospel of God's grace, published to Romanists and Protestants alike, apart from the asperities of controversy and from the antagonism of mere sects in the spirit of tender love and yearning compassion." From Dublin, the Rev. A. Dunlop writes:—"Though my congregations are not larger than they were twelve years ago, yet I am thoroughly convinced that my position is much stronger now than it has ever been since I came here." In the province of Ulster, the stations of the society are much more numerous. The Rev. D. Robb, of Coleraine, gets large audiences in the open air; considerable numbers of young people are attracted by his ministry. In his six out-stations he averages nearly 700 hearers. At Belfast, the Rev. A. Morrison has 300 Sunday-scholars, and a large Bible-class. A lay evangelist, Mr. J. Connor, has, during the past year, visited 4,115 families; held 213 meetings, with an attendance of 4,240 persons; visited 514 sick persons; induced six individuals to join the Christian church; given away more than 30,000 tracts; conducted a Bible-class every Friday evening, and a Sunday class of from ten to fifteen boys. At Straide, the Rev. James Bain, besides ministering to about 500 persons in his chapel, preaches in sixteen out-stations; his Sunday-school contains 200 children, and he superintends six day-schools, having in them 300 pupils. Twelve of his families have emigrated, among whom were thirteen church-members; "but," he writes, "our numbers are made up by others who are brought in from the world, or attracted by our more simple Scriptural order in the Gospel"; there are now 125 members in church fellowship. The Rev. L. Hinds, of Donaghry, preaches in ten out-stations, having an aggregate attendance of 460. The Rev. James Grant, of Donaghmore, preaches in ten out-stations, and he reports most encouragingly of the results which have followed. The Rev. George White, of Newry, and the Rev. C. Skuse, of Richhill, have each in their out-stations an average attendance of 300. Mr. Skuse has a Sunday-school with 233 scholars. The Rev. J. Kydd, of Galway, has some very important Bible-classes—one for young men, another for ladies—in which some fifty persons assemble. Under Mr. Kydd's superintendence Mr. William Douglas labours as a lay evangelist, who—by his intercourse with Romanists in their houses, on their roads, upon the beach, as well as by his weekly services on board the shipping—is exercising, it is believed, a very useful influence. From Cork, the

Rev. W. Fox writes, concerning Mallow:—"We never had better services than during the past year." The report proceeded to remark:—"During the past year the committee invited a deputation to visit many of the stations in Ireland, the Rev. Dr. M'Auslane and the Rev. G. D. Macgregor kindly consenting to oblige them. It was believed that the independent and unbiassed reports of what they saw and heard might tend to awaken increased sympathy on behalf of Irish missions. Those who have read the deeply-interesting letters they wrote in the *English Independent*, on their return, will, doubtless, believe the same, and will approve the republication of these letters in a separate form. Since then, the Rev. C. Clemanee, B.A., kindly offered to visit some of the churches in the sister country, in the hope of serving the cause of Christ among the brethren there." Last year there was a deficit of about 500*l.*, but the special appeal produced about 600*l.*, in addition to which the committee had received one half of the legacy of 500*l.* left by the late Miss Buckley. If Ireland were like England, having as rich churches and county unions, this society would have simply to vote for the agents' grants in aid; that, however, not being the case, the result is, that nearly the whole of its agents necessarily receive by far the greater portion of their support from its funds.

JAS. SCRUTTON, Esq. (joint-treasurer with Mr. Reed, M.P.), read the financial statement, which showed receipts (inclusive of a small balance brought forward from last year, and a loan from the bankers of 600*l.*) of 4,107*l.* 19*s.*, as against expenditure and repayment of loans of 4,031*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, leaving a balance in hand of 26*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

Mr. ANDREW DUNN, in seconding the adoption of the report, said that he was an Irishman, and from his own knowledge he believed the agents of the society had done a great deal of good, not only by proclaiming the truth of the Gospel, but also by educating the people in the principle of religious liberty; because, in the north of Ireland, and until recently, the principle of establishments and endowments was the leading and prominent feature. There were Wesleyans there, certainly, and as Nonconformists and Independent Churches they educated many people in the principle of religious liberty, and taught them the impolicy and injustice of taxing all and sundry for the support of any one denomination of Christians.

The Rev. G. D. MACGREGOR moved the following resolution:—

That, believing the Gospel of Christ to be the grand and only efficient means for promoting man's highest welfare in time and in eternity, this meeting rejoices in the success which has attended the labours of the Irish Evangelical Society, and earnestly commends it to the loving sympathy and liberal support of all who long for Ireland's complete regeneration.

Some individuals, he remarked, said it was not worth while to try to evangelise Ireland; if that were the case it was no longer God's Gospel. (Hear, hear.) The Gospel was the main instrument for man's elevation in the highest sense; apply this to Ireland, and Ireland was civilised. England had tried a thousand nostrums to relieve Ireland, but they had all failed; and now the question was whether the godly men in Ireland meant to give up the attempt to find if the Gospel could not do what everything else had failed to do. With regard to the question as to the success which had attended the Irish Evangelical Society, Ireland lay too close for them to hear so much of missionary success as they would were it the other side of the world. The speaker gave instances of the success of the society's efforts which had come under his personal notice, and concluded by asserting his belief that when Ireland came to enjoy the same advantages as England and Scotland, it would very likely outstrip the two latter in intellectual advancement. (Cheers.)

The Rev. C. CLEMANEE, of Nottingham, seconded the resolution. During a long and eloquent address, which was frequently applauded, he observed that several mistakes were often made with regard to the society's work in Ireland. It was thought that work lay mainly amongst the Roman Catholics. They were working amongst the Roman Catholics, certainly, but not with much hope of converting any considerable number of them to Protestantism. It would cost many men, who abhor the priestly yoke, in some cases their livelihood, in other cases their lives, to openly profess Protestantism. Their work did not lie so much in making present converts from Popery as in sowing the seed which must eventually emancipate Ireland, and make her prosperous and happy. The ministers they sent out to Ireland must be made of stern stuff—men who were improved by difficulty, and not cowed by it; and the churches should have for them nothing but the most warm and hearty support. He was told that, in the south of Ireland especially, the quality of the men was of much more importance than the number of men employed. Such men were centres of Christian life, and could take their part, with members of other denominations, in efforts for the elevation of the people. From what he had heard in Ireland during the last month, he ventured to assert that there was no body doing so much work with so little means as their society. The speaker then read some particulars he had collected while on a preaching tour in Ireland to show that the progress was of a much more favourable character than Congregationalists generally supposed. He had always valued their work in Ireland; he had now seen it with his own eyes, and valued it more than he had done before, and would do what he could to help the work. They ought to be ashamed of the paltry four thousand pounds

contributed towards the mission. (Hear.) The difficulties of their friends there were not lessened by the action of the British Government, which had destroyed the confidence of the Protestants of Ireland in Mr. Gladstone, through the apparent pandering of the British Government to the aims and designs of the Ultramontane party. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. M'AUSLANE moved the following resolution:—

That, feeling deeply that without the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit, the publication even of Christ's own Gospel will prove unsuccessful, this meeting reviews with pleasure the recent day of special prayer for Ireland, and would commit itself, and warmly invite others, to "pray without ceasing," that the showers of Heaven's grace may descend upon all true Churches and all Christian workers in the sister island.

He must confess his extreme disappointment with the small number present at the meeting. Where were their own ministers that night? He had been asked to go down to Westminster that evening for a very special reason; if he had gone he should have been gratified, and was quite as much as others at liberty to go, but he considered it was a duty to Ireland to attend where he was. (Loud cheers.) Until the ministers of the Congregational body in England would take a much greater interest in Ireland than they had hitherto done, the success they ought to expect would not be attained. It was very well for ministers to say to their people, "Do this or that for Ireland"; but, when the only means they had of helping energetically came, and they did not attend, their actions were not consistent with their words. It was time the £4,000 hitherto subscribed should be increased to £8,000 or £10,000, to aid the spread of the Gospel in Ireland.

The Rev. WILLIAM TYLER, in seconding the resolution, said it alluded to the service of prayer which had been recently held on behalf of Ireland, and which would no doubt produce good fruit in God's own time.

A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for presiding; and, after singing the Doxology the meeting broke up.

EVANGELICAL CONTINENTAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening, May 13, in Exeter Hall (lower room), the chair being occupied by Mr. James Spicer, J.P. The Rev. T. B. HART, of Paris, having opened the proceedings with prayer.

The CHAIRMAN said they had met to consider the claims of a most important society, which, although it had been established only about a quarter of a century, had done good service in the cause of Christ. He ventured to think its claims had not been fully recognised, and that it had not met with that sympathy and hearty support from the British public to which it was justly entitled. The object of the society was to spread the simple Gospel, through the continent of Europe, without any reference to ecclesiastical distinctions. It had thirty-five agents labouring in France, Spain, Italy, Bohemia, and Belgium. Considering what Rome was doing in order to convert England to the Romish faith, spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in order to delude the people of England into an acceptance of Popery, he was sure something more ought to be done to carry out the objects which that society had in view. They had not about that meeting the charm which usually attended meetings on behalf of the heathen; but many of the people on the Continent of Europe were in as great darkness as the heathen, and it was quite as important that they should be converted. (Hear, hear.)

The SECRETARY (the Rev. R. S. Ashton) then read the report for the past year; which remarked that the din of war being hushed on the continent, religion had been able to lift up her voice, and the churches had been free to carry on their work. The Old Catholic movement had given some evidence of being about to arrive at a more Scriptural settlement of its future doctrinal position, and for the first time for 200 years had the descendants of the noble Huguenots been allowed to meet in a truly representative and legal manner to discuss questions of doctrine, policy, and discipline. But whether the Government would sanction the resolutions of the Synod of the Reformed Church was uncertain. The agents of the society had pursued a steady and useful course; and though no new regions had been opened up, or any general upheaval of society could be recorded, there had been an active prosecution of Christian work. With one exception their evangelists and colporteurs had met with no substantial opposition from the authorities in France, where it is believed that the influence of Rome is gradually declining, notwithstanding the clamours of the Ultramontane party, the pilgrimages they have organised in France, their political intrigues in Spain, and the whining cry of persecution they have raised respecting the prisoner of the Vatican. In Spain, the committee have two pastors and four teachers, but there had been too much expectation of striking results in that country, where the unsettled and corrupt state of the country was adverse. The general feeling was one of disappointment, though not of despondency. In Italy the work of Evangelisation has been prosecuted with energy. Their eight agents, who had been recently visited by the secretary, are men worthy of confidence, simple-minded, and devout. The station at Bologna had been well worked, the number of communicants being eighty-eight. At Ferrara also there was a considerable company of believers, and their evangelist had been welcomed at other

places. There was in fact scope for the employment of half-a-dozen evangelists in the extensive region stretching from Ancona past Brindisi as far as Taranto. Their agent in Rome, who, aided by Signor Gavazzi, had done much towards consolidating the work of God in that city, states that last year forty-six persons had come to the Saviour; that since the beginning of this year twenty-two more had joined them, and there were seventeen catechumens. The day-school numbers 220 children, while another has just been opened in a different, and, till now, wholly neglected part of the city. The Vaudois Church, one of whose agents the society helps to support, is pursuing with its wonted vigour the noble enterprise of bringing Italy to accept the pure faith of Christ, and many of its members had contributed pecuniary help to their operations. In Bohemia there were seven agents, supported wholly or in part by the committee, and their reports show that a good work is being done, and that in towns and villages little Protestant communities are being gathered, and people appreciate the value of the Bible. Two colporteurs, at the expense of a member of the committee, will soon be at work in Bohemia; the necessary authorisation having been, though with difficulty, obtained. In France and Belgium seventeen agents were employed with very encouraging results. The people flocked eagerly to hear the Gospel. New centres of evangelisation had been opened and there were many cases of conversion. In reference to Paris the reports specially referred to the singularly interesting work which the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McAll are carrying on with success among the lowest class of the population. At Vizelles, near Grenoble, their agent reports the opening of a chapel, and there is considerable movement in some other places. The committee rejoice to know that the Evangelical Schools in Paris are full to overflowing, and that several new ones have been opened since the war. The financial position of the society was very favourable; the staff of agents had been maintained and slightly increased. The income for the year amounted to 3,266l. 4s. 3d., and the expenditure to 3,178l. 3s. 6d. The committee regretted that their esteemed treasurer, Mr. E. Pye-Smith desired to relinquish office, and proposed as his successor Mr. John Cunliffe. The report concluded with an earnest appeal for increased support.

The Rev. Canon BURGESS (Secretary of the Foreign Missions Aid Society) in moving the adoption of the report remarked upon the similarity of the objects of the two societies, neither of which was denominational. The Foreign Aid Society had trained 550 theological students, and many of them had become distinguished men. (Applause.) What a joy it was to look back to the time when that society was founded in 1830! Two years afterwards the celebrated Dr. Merle D'Aubigne joined it, and since that time he had been endeavouring, with him, to evangelise the nations of the continent. The struggle on the continent at the present time was to get out of Catholicism. It was Catholicism that was endeavouring to destroy religious liberty. The speaker gave some illustrations of the work that was being carried on in the rural districts of France. In one place with the assistance of their brethren of the Société Evangelique, of the Faubourg St. Antoine, some schools were established, which were still going on, and contained between 300 and 400 children. The people preferred theirs to the communal school, and the priest spoke to the mayor about it, and said they were teaching the children the most gross immorality, rebellion, and revolution. The mayor went to the schools in private clothes and asked the master to show him the books from which he taught. He was shown various school books and some tracts—one entitled "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité." Immediately he saw that, he exclaimed, "Here is Republicanism." Some other tracts he took home, and on the following day came in his official dress, and said, "My man, you see who I am now; I have read your tracts, they are beautiful; go on with your work, you are doing an immense good to the population." (Applause.) The next day the priest went to know the result; and the mayor said, "Monsieur Curé, if you were doing half the good those people are doing, you would complain no more to me." (Applause.) Ever since that time the schools had been going on. He was almost put to the blush when he heard that that society had 3,000l. last year. He had been making up the accounts of the Foreign Aid Society, and found the income amounted to only 2,200l.; but he might mention that that society had received lately a legacy of 2,000l., another of 200l., and 250l. in memoriam from a friend of his. (Applause.) It was all for their brethren on the continent and those whom they assisted. In their operations they did not want to bring men to this or that section or denomination; they wanted to bring them to Christ.

Pasteur CL. DE FAY, Brussels, in seconding the resolution, remarked that at the present day Popery, in point of numbers, was certainly on the increase in Belgium. The division was terrible between what were called the clerical party—the Ultramontanes and the Liberals. In 1789 there were in Belgium 631 convents; in 1866, when the last census was taken, there were 1,314, with 18,162 inmates. If the convents continue to increase so rapidly there would soon be hardly a place for people to live in unless they became priests or nuns. (Laughter.) The priest exercised a very great influence over the elections; he was generally the master, the demi-god of the village;

then came the burgomaster, then the schoolmaster—the three formed a kind of triumvirate. They had not in Belgium the *suffrage universelle* as in France, but the people with a pittance of 40 francs, or less, might give in their votes. The clergy of the Roman Catholic Church were exceedingly wealthy—not in property, as in former days, but in cash; so that in a time of revolution they might carry it with them. The increase in the power of the priesthood was such, that in a paper which he held in his hand, a kind of *Figaro*, or *Charivari*, the Church was represented as a kind of monster with a tremendous mouth, swallowing at once 600,000 francs; and around the picture were fifty or sixty different keys, to open all the doors possible in this world—but one. Men were represented as helping themselves to the property; and in the background and individual appeared with a whip in his hand, and was driving them out of the temple. Another cause of the increase of Popery was the recent union with the International—a union which had been called the union of the blacks and the reds. It was hard work to convince the people of the necessity of giving up self in order to enter into the kingdom of God. They knew very little of the spirituality of religion, or with regard to the Gospel. In conclusion, the speaker asked for the help and prayers of his hearers on behalf of the work which was being carried on in Belgium.

Pastor SCHUBERT (from Bohemia) next addressed the meeting in his native tongue, his remarks being interpreted by Professor Laurent, of Ghent University. Through the kindness and assistance of the Evangelical Continental Society, a work had been commenced in Bohemia by which the Gospel now began to have free course in that country. When the Lord opened the door no man could shut it. Since the Hussites were driven out of the country in 1620 the door had been locked, but now the Lord had opened it. The people remembered that they were once an Evangelical people, and the spirit of the great reformer, John Huss, still lived in the nation. (Cheers.) In the town of Laun, which in 1620 was entirely peopled by Moravian brethren, but was now inhabited by a Roman Catholic population, an evangelist was employed, a preaching station had been opened, and they usually had from 200 to 500 Roman Catholics present, and the last letter which he had received stated that they had had 600. Another letter stated that three priests had resigned their office, and that three families of the town had embraced the Protestant faith.

Dr. DAVIS briefly moved—

That the continent of Europe is a mission-field, for the cultivation of which the present resources of continental churches are wholly inadequate, and it therefore calls for the earnest attention of British Christians.

The Rev. J. R. McDUGALL (Florence), in seconding the resolution, said he was intimately acquainted with the agents employed by the society in Italy, and he could safely say they would bear comparison with the agents of any other.

Signor GAVAZZI, who was received with loud cheers, said he would confine his remarks to the missions in Italy. The majority of their converts were from the industrial and middle classes of society—they were not very rich; and in many instances they lost what they did possess; they were expelled from their situations, because they became evangelical Christians. Being poor, they become still more so, and could not keep the missionaries, and that was the reason those missions needed help. In future years the churches would so increase that they would be able to support themselves. He had no doubt of that, because they had several churches in Italy which were almost self-supporting. He would ask them the simple question, Did they desire to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread in Italy? The door was open, the field was rich and ripe, and if labourers were sent there would be a good harvest. He was glad their converts were of the humbler class, because the better classes, who, seeing their good example, were afterwards converted, were more likely to be sincere Christians. There was a difference between the Christian and the Popish ministers. The former followed the example of their Divine Master, and looked after the souls of the poor. (Hear, hear.) He always came to this country with a sorrowful heart, on account of the increase of Romanism in Protestant England. The Jesuits were wise in their generation, and they looked after the dukes and duchesses, lords and ladies, wherever there was money; they liked to have plenty of cash in case they had to fly. (Laughter.) The object of the evangelist in Italy was to convert the souls of the people, and the extension of the kingdom of Jesus Christ; but the anxiety of the Jesuit was to convert to their own sect and not to Jesus Christ at all. He asked for sympathy and help on behalf of Rome. The Pope would not come out of Rome, because if he did he would be nothing. (Hear, hear.) Four years ago their places of worship in Rome were like barns, no Bibles or tracts could be circulated, and no one could speak publicly in the streets of Jesus Christ; and when he came to this country in 1870 he had no idea that that very year he would be able to preach in Rome. It was considered impossible while there was a Pius IX. upon the throne of Rome and a Napoleon on the throne of the Tuileries. Now the Gospel could be as freely preached in Rome as in this country. Several denominations were at work in that city and in connection with his own church. With the assistance of the society, three public places of worship had been opened in excellent positions, and they were always crowded. They had about a hundred communicants and twenty catechumens. He was not a Roman by birth, but he liked Rome,

and he liked the Romans: they had a fearless character, a brightness of intellect, and a sincerity of heart; there was no duplicity about them; so that when they abandoned Popery, they did so in sincerity and for the love of Jesus Christ. (Applause.) Therefore they were very promising congregations. They had also three schools which were well attended; two-thirds were the children of Roman Catholic parents, but they preferred to send to their schools, rather than to the municipal, or Government schools, although they knew they were Evangelicals, and their text-book was the Bible. Several parents had been converted by assisting the exercises of the children, or by having the Gospel read to them by their children on going home. Those schools were very important because they were the nursery of good, strong, faithful Christianity for the next generation. (Applause.) Then connected with their free church they had Bible readers who visited private families and hospitals, and sold the Bible at a low price to those who could not pay the full value. He objected to the gratuitous distribution of Bibles, because when they were unadvisedly spread about nine out of every ten of them got into the hands of priests and were made into bonfires. Therefore he thought it better to make the people pay a trifle for it, because what they purchased they took care of. By evangelising Rome they were making sound Protestants. England was passing through a great crisis. Popery was trying to destroy English Protestantism, because they knew that English Protestantism was the Protestantism of Europe, and if Protestantism were put down in England it would be lost in all Europe. Then he asked them to stand fast for their Protestantism. (Applause.) Rome was fighting against Evangelical Protestantism, and had sent here an army of bishops, archbishops, priests, friars, nuns, and Jesuits, and there were English traitors who were doing all they could to destroy it. They must stand for it for their own sake and for the sake of Protestants in other parts of Europe. He asked them as though it were the last time he would speak to them, not to forget that the worst enemy of Evangelical Protestantism was that fatal Oxford Jesuitism which had passed under three names in his time—Tractarianism, Puseyism, and now Ritualism. (Loud cheers.) Ritualism—a religion of bumpkins and fools! A man of common sense would not take up such a religion—of flowers, embroideries, and tomfooleries; it was nothing but charlatanism. But it was sensational, and some people in this country liked sensation—they must have sensational books, sensational opera, and sensational church! And that after their forefathers had given their life's blood at Smithfield in behalf of Protestantism. They must stand up for that, and do honour to the Evangelical Church of Ridley and Cranmer, and not take up the Ritualism of Pusey and Manning. Before parting with his hearers he would remind them that Rome was fighting; they could not see it, but he could, because he was an old ex-Roman Catholic, and ex-friar, and therefore knew the tricks of Rome better than they. He could see the danger in which their Protestantism was placed, and they must preserve themselves. Hannibal once came from Africa to Italy, to fight against Italy; but while Hannibal was fighting under the walls of Rome, a Roman army was sent to Africa under the command of Scipio which laid the way for the final destruction of its rival. Rome had sent to England an army of clericals and non-clericals to fight against Evangelical Protestantism; and to save themselves, and their glorious Protestantism, they must send evangelists to Rome. (Loud applause.) Send to Rome the most powerful of all armies, the Bible, and the power of the Bible would kill the Pope, and overthrow the Papal God. He prayed that God would aid the work of the society, and bless the country, and preserve our glorious and triumphant Christianity. Might God bless Italy, and after having the door thrown open to Christianity, might they embrace the Gospel, and shake hands with other Protestants as Christian brethren here, and all meet at last in the eternity of heaven. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. T. W. AVELING moved, and M. FAUSCHER seconded, a resolution, appointing the officers for the ensuing year.

Mr. PYE-SMITH proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by the Rev. R. Ashton; and the Rev. W. P. Tiddy closed the meeting by pronouncing the benediction.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS' "YEARLY MEETING," 1873.

The great annual gathering of the Society of Friends commenced at the meeting-house, Bishopsgate-street, London, on Wednesday, May 21. A number of very interesting subjects have claimed the consideration of the body. One of these was the continued relative decrease of the society, inasmuch as it appears that, during the past year, the deaths have exceeded the births. Mr. Joseph Thorp, J.P., of Halifax, drew the attention of the meeting to the circumstance that, at the commencement of this century, the Friends and the Baptists in England had nearly the same number of chapels, about 500 each, and also nearly an equal body of members in each denomination. Whereas, in 1873 the Friends have only about 300 chapels, whilst the Baptists have now 1,900 chapels, and about 150,000 members. He thought this was a suggestive fact, as pointing to the necessity for more definitely arranged efforts to preserve the Society of Friends from extinction. Mr. Isaac Brown, of Kendal, followed in the same direction. He feared that the young men of the society had not sufficient faith in

God in relation to marriage. They waited till they could begin life in a position similar to that which their fathers had obtained by life-long industry, instead of marrying in peaceful faith that a right conjugal union would be followed by the Divine blessing and providing care on the due exercise of industrious endeavours. Another subject which claimed a whole day's consideration, was the case of a Friend who has joined Mr. Voysey's committee, and who had been excommunicated in consequence, by one of the provincial meetings. He appealed from this judgment to the Yearly Meeting. But after a most serious and calm hearing of both sides, the Yearly Meeting confirmed the action of the subordinate meeting, by an almost unanimous decision. There was a general and decided expression by the society of firm and continued belief in the deity of Christ and in His sacrifice as the one atonement and only means of reconciliation between man and God. Also in the propriety of direct prayer and adoration to Christ. The chairman of the meeting, Mr. J. Storrs Fry, of Bristol, was, however, requested to inform the appellant, verbally, that whilst the assembly maintained, in the most uncompromising manner, its adherence to doctrines differing from those he had approved, yet there was also felt a general esteem for his high personal character and earnest sincerity, with a hope that at some future period he might relinquish his error and be reinstated in the body. It is about fifty years since a similar appeal on a matter of "faith and doctrine" came before the open "Yearly Meeting"; and the present occasion was a most interesting one by reason of the combined solemnity, courtesy, and kindness of feeling which characterised the bearing of all parties concerned.

A number of American Friends have attended this Yearly Meeting, some having come over to stir up their English brethren to increased religious life and activity, also to investigate the operations of British philanthropy. Among these may be named Mr. Yardley Warner, a leading philanthropist of Pennsylvania, whose name is well known in connection with American efforts for education, temperance, peace, and the welfare of freed negroes. He belongs to the more liberal but "orthodox" section of the Pennsylvania Friends, the main body of whom are much more rigid and formalistic than other Quaker communities. For example, at their last annual gathering, a few weeks ago, they decided to excommunicate any Friends indulging in music, whether sacred or otherwise. This rule, if adopted by the English society, would exclude many of the best and most useful members. But there is not the slightest probability of such a course being taken by European Quakerism. The epistles from most of the American "Yearly Meetings" expressed a lively and hopeful satisfaction at the settlement, by means of the Geneva arbitration, of the long-pending differences between Great Britain and the United States. Indeed, the interest felt in this subject is very wide and profound in America. Mr. Yardley Warner states that in a recent interview with President Grant, that dignity expressed his interest in the proposed arbitration motion of which Mr. Henry Richard, M.P. for Merthyr Tydfil, has given notice in the House of Commons for the 20th of June. The Hon. Senator Sumner, and Senator Cameron, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, also informed Mr. Warner that they and other members of the American Legislature were watching very attentively for the reception of Mr. Richard's motion, with a view to introduce a similar motion, at a suitable opportunity, into the Congress, or Senate, of the United States.

On Saturday, the Yearly Meeting listened to the obituary notice of the late Mr. Robert Charleton, of Bristol, whose virtues and charities are widely known to the general public. On this occasion Mr. Henry Pease, of Darlington, incidentally informed the meeting that when, before the outbreak of the Crimean War, Mr. Charleton, Mr. Joseph Sturge, and himself undertook that memorable mission of peace to the Emperor Nicholas (when Mr. Charleton's part in the undertaking was a very valuable and important one), the Czar was so pleased with the simple and Christian object of the deputation that he offered to send them to Moscow, with attendants, &c., at his expense, and to throw open the various institutions for their inspection. This offer was courteously declined, as also was a similar offer to open to them the great fortress of Cronstadt. The Emperor then sent a messenger to request each of the Friends to indicate some form of present which they might like to accept from him as a *souvenir*. This also was politely but firmly declined by Mr. Charleton and his companions, who desired that not the slightest shadow should rest upon the purely religious and disinterested nature of their mission. They left St. Petersburg with the ridicule of the British press upon them, but with the respect of the Emperor and his court, and the entire approval of their own consciences. And probably even the ridicule of the English press would have been greatly diminished if the writers could then have foreseen that within twenty years the so-called "material guarantees" resulting from the Crimean War would be swept away by peaceful diplomacy—an agency which, if efficiently used, abundant experience has shown to be competent alike to prevent wars or to undo their dearly-purchased results.

It is possible that this Yearly Meeting may lead to some fresh efforts by the English "Friends" to maintain or increase the society's religious prosperity. One mode of revival was hinted at by the

American visitors who stated that in the Western States, the Friends appoint, or permit, deputations of ministers to visit districts where there is little or no Quakerism and to form a nucleus by holding a series of "General Meetings" sometimes held continuously for a week or two in each locality, so as to awaken and instruct the audiences gathered. This means of proselytism and revival was a characteristic feature of the energy of the early Friends in England, who often held somewhat similar "General Meetings." But their descendants have allowed them to become mere memories of the past, so far at least as Great Britain is concerned.

RAGGED CHURCH AND CHAPEL UNION.

The annual meeting of this society was held last evening in Exeter (Lower) Hall. There was a good attendance, chiefly of those engaged in the work. The Earl of Shaftesbury occupied the chair. The Rev. W. Stott having offered prayer, an abstract of the report was read by Rev. Dr. Allen, which stated that the Ragged Church and Chapel Union has now eighty-six stations (being an increase of ten during the year) planted in the midst of the most crowded parts of the metropolis, at which the Gospel is freely and plainly preached, and by special services, Sunday-schools, mothers' meetings, Bible-classes, tracts, penny-banks, and many other agencies, it silently but surely wins its way, elevating and purifying the moral atmosphere, while telling of Him who came to "seek and to save the lost." Its labours have not been unsuccessful, the reports from the various stations all speak of actual work accomplished, of new ground occupied, of fresh efforts put forth, of sinners convinced of the error of their way, and of souls converted to God. Some of the largest gatherings are in common lodging houses and refuges, where the same congregation is never met with a second time; this, combined with the migratory habits of those dealt with, renders it always difficult, and sometimes impossible, to know the result of our labour, yet the few cases that have come to our knowledge constrain us to say, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Difficulties have been encountered and overcome, opposition has been met with, but by kindness and tact it has been disarmed; old stations have been strengthened, and new positions occupied, some who first heard of Jesus in a ragged church have passed away to be with Christ for ever, many who came to scoff have been converted to God, and prove the reality of the work in their changed lives; to most, the mission services are their only means of grace. To God alone be all glory given.

The balance in hand last year was 118*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, receipts had been 459*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, the expenditure 492*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, leaving 80*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* in hand.

The first resolution, adopting the report and appointing the officers and general committee for the ensuing year, was moved by the Rev. R. J. Simpson, rector of St. Clement Danes, who, after a tribute of respect to the chairman, said they had met to consider the claims of the Ragged Church and Chapel Union, and the mode in which it met the great amount of sin and misery in the metropolis. Dr. Allen had given them the same statement respecting all their agencies, that they were doing the work for which they were originated, and that reminded him of what he heard at Glasgow a short time ago, the repeated blows of the hammer in the ship-builder's yard, which, though somewhat monotonous, were building up the noble ships which were for the defence of the country. He rejoiced at the statements made in the report because he was sure that the more they had of such reports the less they would hear of police-court reports. He was sure it was the best policy for this country, which could not be governed by brute force, but by moral means, to engage in this work of evangelising the masses. If the Gospel of Christ was preached with all simplicity, and with genial sympathy, it would find acceptance. He felt the need of such efforts in his own parish, and was glad to welcome all workers, for there was great need. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. W. Stott, who said he rejoiced that that was an aggressive society, and that it proclaimed the pure Gospel of Christ, which had always been the great means of raising mankind, and we had only to look abroad to see the vast improvement which it had effected in the habits of the people. It had abolished Juggernaut in India, opened China and freed the slave in America. In England it had consolidated the laws, strengthened the throne, and made her the envy of all the world.

The Chairman, being obliged to leave early, then spoke. He said he would like to say a good word for that society, for which he had great respect. It was one of the chief problems of the present day how to reach the great mass of the people. It was quite clear that our present modes of action failed to reach them, and it became necessary to carry on an aggressive system which would take the Gospel into the courts and alleys, to those who would not come to hear it. The late Duke of Wellington, after the conquest of Burmah, once said to him, "Take my word for it, no frontier is good for defence which is not good for attack," and that is what we want to do, to carry the Gospel through the length and breadth of the country. They had in London to deal with a migratory population, continually changing about seeking for work, and it was necessary to catch them as they could with a word or a tract, just where they found them; and for that purpose such agencies as that society were needed. It was strange that statesmen did not seem to see the importance of this subject, but how could they have a flourishing nation, if the heart of the

people was not true? He knew of no other agency so well adapted to accomplish this great work. It was useless to imagine that they could congregate these people in churches or chapels. The Church of England had done much lately to build large churches, but many of them capable of containing 2,000, had only 100 persons present. It was useless to build these churches unless they had ministers who would go out and implore the people to come in. And he must ask what was the doctrine too often heard there? The working people were not adverse to the Gospel; if it was carried to them by a beating heart they would gladly receive it, but they cannot be won by pomp and ceremony, by incense and gewgaws, by priests in red coats and green coats. Either they will have no religion at all, or they will have it of the best quality—that which goes to the heart and comforts them in their distress, ennobles them, makes their homes decent, and gives them a hope of a brighter future.

The chair was then occupied by the Rev. W. Tyler, and the Rev. P. S. O'Brien moved the following resolution:—

That while there is reason for gratitude to Almighty God for what has been done of late years in the erection of churches and chapels in the metropolis, the existing state of society indicates that the agencies heretofore employed are not adequate to the spiritual wants of the people; and that the opening of places of worship for the exclusive use of the poor and ignorant in which the Gospel may be preached, in the simplest and plainest form, is well calculated to aid in meeting such wants.

which was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Chadburn, and supported by the Rev. G. H. Stanton, and carried unanimously, as was also a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Mr. Mitchell, and seconded by Mr. Scott. The proceedings concluded with prayer and the benediction.

THE BOOK SOCIETY.—The one hundred and twenty-third annual meeting of this society was held at the Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-street, on Thursday evening, the 8th of May, the friends of the society having previously held a tea-meeting. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury. Resolutions were moved and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Hugh Allen; Dr. Healy, of the United States; Dr. Hill; W. Campbell; G. J. Stanton; W. F. Gardner, of Jamaica; J. H. Wilson; and Professor McAll. The report, which was read by the Rev. I. Vale Mummery, gave an interesting account of the society's publications and of the operations it was carrying on. The noble chairman in his closing address referred to the insidious character of a certain class of literature which was circulated broadcast over the land, and the evil tendency of which was not suspected until after the poison had been imbibed. He himself had collected a vast mass of such literature, and he did not believe any lawyer in the country could devise an act of Parliament which could suppress it. Hence the infinite necessity of such a society as this to continuously work in counteracting the effects of such pestilent stuff. An eloquent speech was brought to a close by the noble earl pointing out the importance of making use of working men to spread Christianity among working men, as he thought this was one of the most effective means of meeting the Loadstone spirit which was so prevalent in the present day.

THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS.—The eighth annual meeting of the friends and supporters of this valuable institution was held on Thursday at the City Terminus Hotel; Mr. Alderman and Sheriff White in the chair. The hon. secretary (Mr. Joseph Soul) read the report, which referred to the fact that only three years ago the committee reported a debt of 13,000*l.*, which had now been reduced to 5,000*l.* The governors were under great obligation to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who presided at the annual festival, and which realised the sum of 937*l.*, of which 47*l.* 5*s.* were new annual subscriptions. Several valuable friends had been lost through death. The children's health during the past year had been all that could be desired; there had not occurred any fatal or even serious case, the illness having been comparatively unimportant. A member of the committee having offered two workboxes as prizes for the best specimen of needlework, there had been quite a competition among the children for the prizes. Some specimens of writing by the children were exceedingly good, and did credit to the teachers. There were in the Orphanage when the last report was presented, 107; admitted during the year by election, 18; by payment, 3; total, 128. Left, 23—9 elected to the Orphan Working School; 2 to the London Orphan School; 3 to Miss Rendle's Orphanage; 6 removed by their friends, and 3 in consequence of the remarriage of the mother, which rendered the children ineligible for other asylums; leaving at the present time 105. The total number admitted since 1864 was 176. The average cost per child for ordinary expenses during the past year was 16*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, being in excess of the previous year on account of the high price of provisions. The income for the year amounted to 4,401*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure to 4,344*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance at the bankers of 56*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* The chairman moved the adoption of the report, and congratulated the subscribers upon the satisfactory condition of the finances and the institution generally. A resolution was also adopted approving of the admission of two orphans to the institution whose fathers had perished in the Northfleet and whose mothers were hopelessly insane; and, the remainder of the routine business having been transacted, the meeting proceeded to elect twelve children into the orphanage.

THE STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENTS OF THE NONCONFORMIST.

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* The large edition of the last number of the *Nonconformist* is entirely sold out, but we have still some copies of the Supplement containing the report of the Disestablishment debate, &c., which will be forwarded by post on the receipt of three penny stamps.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1873.

SUMMARY.

BOTH Houses of Parliament adjourned yesterday for the Whitsuntide recess; the Lords to the 8th of June, the Commons to the 5th. By this arrangement the necessity for a special vote for adjourning over the Derby Day has been avoided, to the satisfaction of Mr. Thomas Hughes.

The Parliamentary incidents of the week have not been very interesting. By a very large majority the Commons rejected Mr. Fowler's proposal to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts; and by a small one, against the Government, after a strong muster on both sides, the names of Professor Playfair and Mr. Cross were added to the select committee to inquire into the conduct of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland relative to their removal of the Callan Schools from the jurisdiction; which committee is already at

work and will report soon after the House re-assembles. Mr. Stansfeld's rating bills have been read a second time, after a very rambling and querulous discussion. The Lord Chancellor's valuable bills for facilitating the transfer of land and the registration of titles have also gone through the same stage; but, with the opposition of Lord Cairns in the one House and of the legal interest in the other, they are not likely to pass this session. On Monday Mr. Bentinck was able to waste an evening by provoking a useless and injurious discussion on the changes in international law which insured our condemnation at Geneva—the vote of 3,200,000l. for the Alabama indemnity having been already agreed to. One of the earliest measures after the holidays will be the proposed bill for amending the Elementary Education Act of 1870, which Mr. Forster will introduce on Monday, June 9.

The celebrated trial of O'Keefe v. Cullen was yesterday brought to a close in the Irish Court of Queen's Bench. A majority of the court had previously disallowed the plaintiff's demurrer that the law refused its sanction to any contract under which a citizen deprives himself of the right he would otherwise have to challenge before the courts the conduct of any other citizen towards him. The question to be decided upon the main issue was whether Cardinal Cullen had acted within the limits of his proper authority. Chief Justice Whiteside, however, told the jury that they were bound to give a verdict for the plaintiff, the law being clearly in his favour, and the only question being the amount of damages. At first the jury were unable to agree, but eventually decided as they were directed, and gave Mr. O'Keefe a farthing damages, which the Chief Justice allowed to carry costs on the ground that the "libel" was wilful and malicious. The matter will hardly rest here, but there will doubtless be an immediate appeal to the full court sitting *in Banco* for a new trial on the ground of misdirection by the presiding judge when the positions assumed by Chief Justice Whiteside will be examined, and possibly repudiated by the majority of his colleagues.

The downfall of M. Thiers has created very little stir in France, owing partly to the confidence placed in the moderation of his successor, Marshal MacMahon, and partly to the wise forbearance of the Republican party. The new President in his message to the Assembly avows that his Government is to be resolutely Conservative, and will take up the constitutional bills of M. Dufaure with the view of passing them in an amended form. But the supreme object of the Duc de Broglie and his colleagues is not so much to adopt a new constitution on the Republican basis, as to use the administrative machinery for their own party purposes. This they are doing with all speed. The Liberal prefects are being dismissed by wholesale, and their places filled by decided Monarchists. The next matter will be to manipulate universal suffrage; and if that also be effected, there will probably be no hesitation in appealing to the country, in the hope that a monarchical majority will be secured. But it is one thing to dismiss functionaries who have no power of appeal, and another to carry reactionary measures throughout an Assembly in the face of so experienced a statesman as M. Thiers, a formidable opposition, and a full exposure of the aims of the majority. The difficulties of the coalition Cabinet have hardly yet commenced. What its intentions are may be inferred from the great rejoicing that its advent to power has caused at the Vatican, where the Pope has been bestowing his special blessing upon the French National Assembly, which he speaks of as "an assembly so devoted to true Christian principles."

Pius IX. has sufficiently recovered to give audiences and receive deputations. In presence of some Italian Catholics he has uttered what from other lips would be a seditious speech against the Sovereign of Italy. But, his objections notwithstanding, the Chamber of Deputies has finally, and by a majority of 196 to 46 votes, passed the Religious Corporations Bill—a measure which suppresses the fifty-two monastic orders in Rome, but provides liberal pensions for their "generals," which annuities are however to be handed over to the Holy See as an increase of the Pope's own endowment. According to general report, the College of Cardinals will before long be called upon to elect a new Pope. They have already had informal meetings and anxious consultations, and it is supposed that Cardinal Riaro Sforza, Archbishop of Naples, stands in greatest favour—a prelate who unites much suppleness with marked ability, and who would probably exhibit an anxious desire to come to terms with Italy.

By the death of Chief Justice Chase the United States has lost one of its worthiest citizens—a judge whose integrity was above

reproach, a politician who took a prominent share in the momentous events which threatened to break up the Union. Mr. Chase was a conspicuous leader of the Free Soil party, and as a United States senator took a leading part in opposing the extension of slavery in new territories. He supported Colonel Fremont as candidate for the Presidency, and subsequently threw all his influence into the scale in favour of Mr. Lincoln. During the civil war he discharged the onerous duties of Secretary of the Treasury with remarkable skill and success. Subsequently, when, as Chief Justice, he was called upon to preside at the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson, his rulings were so impartial as to alienate the extreme Republicans, who withdrew from all political association with him. The decease of Chief Justice Chase has caused profound sorrow throughout America, and was followed by a public funeral at Washington, attended by President Grant and the members of his Government.

DISCOMFITURE OF M. THIERS.

THE Right and Right Centre at Versailles has triumphed. It has carried its interpellation, or, as we should say, its vote of want of confidence in M. Thiers and his Government, by a majority of 14. It was evidently well prepared for the consequences, although the majority seems to have been brought about, at the last moment, by the defection of a few Republicans. The speech of the President of the Republic on the motion before the Assembly was moderate, dignified, and closely adapted to the crisis. But it seems to have left the voting power of the Conservatives uninfluenced by its weighty eloquence. At any rate, a majority, though but a small one, joined in censuring the President of the Republic. He resigned his office. His resignation was forthwith accepted. Marshal MacMahon was thereupon requested to assume the office which M. Thiers had laid down. He, too, after a little dallying with the President of the Assembly, as Cæsar is represented as dallying with the offer of a crown, speedily yielded to the wishes of the majority. He now occupies the chair vacated by M. Thiers. He has appointed a Government to carry out the decrees of the Assembly. The public peace has not been disturbed. The leaders of the Republican party, as well as the organs of opinion which represent their principles, have earnestly besought their adherents to preserve unbroken the laws of the country. There is no immediate expectation of insurrectionary violence. The funds have risen. Confidence remains unimpaired, and there is at least a fair prospect that the crisis will be solved within the lines of the existing constitution; provisional though it be, and that France will show to the world she has learnt the first lesson of national progress towards political freedom.

No doubt, the step taken by the Versailles Assembly is a step backward. It means retrogression. It is technically in unison with the forms of the existing régime. At any rate, it may claim to be perfectly legal. It does claim to be something more than this. It repudiates the intention of subverting the Republic, or of substituting for it a monarchy. It publicly demands nothing more than to represent and apply the sovereignty of the nation in a Conservative sense. The time is not ripe, the means are not yet at hand, for setting aside the Republic. But the Right doubtless rejoices in the fact that it rests upon that solid footing of official power which will enable it to exercise a commanding influence over the future destinies of the country. It may, for example, defer the dissolution of the Assembly until it has made full preparation for moulding universal suffrage to the expression of its own will. It may remove Republican prefects for well-known and energetic friends of a monarchy. It may thereby put into motion the whole machinery of official administration in France, for securing the election of a constituent body favourable to its ultimate purposes. It may do all this without breaking the letter of the law, and there seems but little reason to doubt that this is the object at which it will steadily aim.

"There's many a slip," however, "twixt the cup and the lip." Present chances do not look very favourable for monarchy in France. The first question which must be decided by those who desire to restore it is, who shall be the representative of the new dynasty. Is he to be Legitimist, Orleanist, or Bonapartist? Is France to accept a paternal despotism, a constitutional monarchy, or an empire? All three parties have united in putting M. Thiers out, but will they all three unite in putting a representative of either of these monarchies on the throne? They seem to be one party, and, for present purposes, they are one. But a little farther on, separate objects will inevitably split them up into several sections. It is just

possible that France might succumb to a single aspirant to the Crown, but it is hardly likely that where there are no less than three, France will prefer to throw aside the existing Republican régime. There can be no room for doubt that the command by the Right and Right Centre of the administrative powers and influence of the nation, will add largely to its possibilities of ultimate success. But even here the chances may have been greatly over-estimated. In times of great excitement, constituencies do not always yield to the pressure of authority. It does not absolutely follow that in a general election in France success will declare itself on the side of those who possess office. More than once it has proved otherwise, and there is very little in the present temper of the French people to indicate that they will submit to be dragooned into a conclusion deemed to be adverse to their own interests.

We need not, perhaps, forecast so remote a future. The present Government will encounter greater peril in those moral influences which will immediately corrode the authority which it wields. It has but a small majority even at Versailles, and that majority is not naturally a cohesive one. It will now be exposed, in every step which it takes, to biting criticism. It can scarcely look for predominant political support out of doors. It can hardly maintain its position without indicating with sufficient clearness its ultimate intentions. It is one thing to upset a Government; it is quite another to conduct the affairs of a great country. If the Republicans will but patiently bide their time, their day of revenge will come almost without seeking it. With the eminent statesmen who will now more decisively throw in their lot with them, they may soon reduce to political helplessness the Parliamentary party which has climbed into office. They will now constitute the party of aggression. They can choose their own point of attack. They will be led by one who is a real and popular statesman and a consummate parliamentary tactician. The monarchists in office are in the most defenceless position which they can hold. It will be their turn now to encounter assault from all quarters. This, perhaps, would be endurable, were they only sure of representing the settled will of the bulk of their countrymen. Of this, however, they must be anything but confident. They will presently taste the bitterness of having installed themselves in office, without the political power requisite to turn it to account. We shall be somewhat surprised if they maintain their footing at the forthcoming general election. We shall be still more surprised if, in that event, they should not meet with ignominious expulsion.

SAMSON AGONISTES AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

MR. DAWSON BURNS, in a temperate letter commenting on our recent remarks on the tactics of the Alliance, assures us that no universal test for members of Parliament has yet been recommended by that association. So far good; but we still are of opinion that the temperance reform will be better served at present by moral rather than by political agitation on the Alliance pattern. And for this simple reason, that the population is not prepared for a vigorous application of the repressive policy.

Another correspondent, Mr. Jacob, of Ebley, tells us that the Alliance is the "strongest organisation in the kingdom, in numbers, money, and influence," and being so strong, will "peg away" at the legal prohibition of the "accursed traffic" in drink until its object is gained. But this it is that reminds us of Samson, who also was very strong, and a teetotaler into the bargain, and who never rested until he pulled down the temple of Dagon upon the heads of the Philistines—but upon his own head also at the same moment. Let us see how the matter practically stands.

As we understand the Alliance men, they desire that wherever two-thirds of the householders—that is, of the ratepayers—are willing to let themselves be argued into signing a petition for the total abolition of the drink traffic, these two-thirds shall have power to enforce their will upon the remaining one-third, and to shut up all the public-houses of the locality. The question is whether such a law could be executed in even the majority of instances in which it became operative. Without any hesitation we answer that it could not, for the reason following. Two-thirds of the rate-paying householders would represent nothing like two-thirds of the population, and nothing like two-thirds of the working people. The working men are less frequently householders than lodgers in the towns, and would therefore be excluded from voting. Thus the law would be laid down for them by classes who for the most part have no need of the public-house, while those who desire its continuance would be

voiceless in preventing its suppression. It would in this way come to pass that the class of people who chiefly use the public-houses, not for drunkenness, but for the sort of social enjoyment which they prefer, would be deprived of their place of resort; firstly because a fraction of this people are shameless drunkards; and secondly because two-thirds of the ratepayers, having no personal interest in keeping open the public-houses, were willing under teetotal inspiration to attempt the reformation of those drunkards by interfering with the social customs of their industrious fellow-townsmen. This would inevitably, we think, lead to confusion, and in many cases to violence, while it would awaken a bitter hatred to all processes of moral legislation.

There may be exceptional localities where the large majority of the working people desire, as Messrs. Burns and Jacob testify, the suppression of the traffic, but such instances are strictly exceptional, and when they exist the population can at their pleasure, without invoking the aid of the law, ruin the publicans forthwith, by total abstinence from drinking. No publican can live exclusively on the custom of those who deserve to be called intemperate. But wherever there is not such a consensus of the working classes the decree of two-thirds of the ratepayers would be impotent against the determination of a mass of men enraged at the breaking up of their usual places of social resort, and still more enraged at the unjust imputation of intemperance; for it is only a small section of mankind who will agree with Mr. Jacob in denouncing the sale and purchase of a pint of beer as an "accursed traffic."

If the power of voting were extended from the ratepayers to the borough electors on the Parliamentary register, so as to include the lodgers, there would, we suspect, be little chance of gaining the needful consent of two-thirds, since the working men would then have a voice. If the women were allowed to vote the scale might, indeed, incline sometimes the other way; but to be turned out of the public-houses by women would not attach the expelled *habitués* to the new law. These hypothetical conditions, however, we need not consider. The Alliance takes its stand on the ratepayer's qualification, and we say that in few populous towns could two-thirds of the ratepayers control the residue of the population. Thence would follow one of three evils: the local law would cease to be executed; or it would be executed amidst chronic rebellion and disorder; or the vigorous execution of the law would, as in America, occasion the existence of a vast system of smuggling and secret traffic in strong liquors. Not one of these consequences is good for the national character, or conducive to the well-being of the people.

If the local law should become practically inoperative through fear of active rebellion, another example would be added to the already sufficiently long list of unexecuted statutes. Every law which is defied with impunity trains the people to lawlessness. Let us have no more laws than are necessary, and none which cannot be put in operation with uniform rigour. To that end let us have no laws which are greatly in advance of the moral condition of the people in matters of imperfect obligation. The one hope of security under democracy is in the reign of law—of law administered with justice, and enforced with all the strength of the national will. But laws depending for their impulse and principle on the choice or the taste of a fraction of the people are always in danger of dropping into discredit and disuse. And this is exactly what would happen, we believe, if the Permissive Bill received the sanction of the Legislature. Its application would be unequal and fitful, and frequently it would become a dead letter where it was nominally in force. Such laws do not train a nation to temperance but to illegality.

Or again, the law would be executed in some places by local administrations zealous for its action. In the small villages and towns this might lead to bitter social feuds or to open deeds of violence, according to the temper of the inhabitants. In large towns the consequences would certainly be often very serious; for if the respectable working men who had been deprived of their accustomed haunts were to league with the less respectable portion of the people (just as pious Churchmen sometimes league with the roughs to upset a Liberation meeting) there would be no possibility of giving effect to the law except under the condition of creating worse evils than those which it was designed to remove. There are few stronger passions among the populace than those which protect what they consider their few pleasures and liberties; and if two-thirds of the ratepayers were content to cut themselves off from

the opportunity of buying a glass of ale, it is quite certain that the majority of operatives would not submit to any such restriction to please ten thousand Alliances.

Lastly, in the towns and villages where a strenuous effort might enable the Alliance to enforce its law, there would immediately spring up a debasing system of trickery and secret trade, which in its way would degrade the character of the people as much as drunkenness. If a tithe of the narratives which reach us from America are true, there can be no doubt that this is the result of abolishing the public sale of liquors. Men learn to drink in private, and society clothes itself in a hypocritical disguise of total abstinence, while secretly conniving at indulgence. Surely it is preferable to encourage the moral restraint which comes from publicity. A "public"-house is better than a private rum-hole; better for the drinkers, better for the locality, better for the national character.

The recent history of another branch of our legislative dealing with vice shows the limits imposed by public indignation on laws intended to be physically, and as the supporters of the Act on Contagious Diseases say, morally beneficial. In this case the thin end of the wedge has been introduced, but Parliament holds no hammer heavy enough, as Mr. Bruce confessed, to drive it a single inch beyond its present degree of penetration. The House of Commons has, indeed, refused to rescind this law, but it knows that it could not be executed among the civil population of the country, and therefore refuses to extend the area of its action. And Parliament herein is wise. *Vane leges sine moribus.*

We return to our starting point. An immense and long-continued moral agitation must precede a law which contemplates moral reforms by removing the occasions of crime. Great and patriotic as have been the efforts of total abstinences, those efforts have not yet succeeded in persuading a portion of the population strong enough to compel the residue to agree to the suppression of the liquor-traffic. They must work on yet for years to come. The extreme measure of total suppression advocated by them indisposes many to join their ranks who are sincere favourers of temperance reform; and we should imagine that it will be a long time before their converts embrace even two-thirds of the nation. At present more than two-thirds are against them, and meantime, it seems unwise to break up by untimely tests the only political party which cares a jot for temperance reform.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday.

Members have often been reproached with taking no part in the debates on the Estimates, but it needs but a visit to the House any evening when they are being debated, to see the hopelessness of any attempt to amend them, except in the rarest cases. The fact is, that the naval and military members absorb almost all the time of the House on Estimate nights for the purpose of propounding their crochets; and the proceedings of the House lapse into such absurdity that it is difficult to avoid a sense of shame at having anything to do with them. Last Thursday evening, I went down to the House, and found about fifty members engaged in discussing the vote for the Admiralty Office. There were present the official representatives of the department, and of course all the naval men and the members for dockyard towns. Solitary, as the only man who had an unprofessional interest in the subject, sat Mr. Rylands, looking very desolate and melancholy—a pelican in the wilderness. No other financial Radical was to be seen, and it was no matter for surprise that all others had vanished. The reporters had laid aside their pencils, for Sir James Elphinstone was discoursing in the most incoherent manner upon the general failings of the present administration; not upon its policy, but upon a variety of small matters upon which the House was absolutely no judge whatever. The rope was bad in consequence of the hemp not being sufficiently seasoned. He had got two bits of it at his rooms, and he would have brought them down to the House had he not known how the House dislikes the smell of tar. The "cat block" of the Royal George, an historic monument, had been sold at a recent sale at Portsmouth, for the sake of the brass sheaves in it. A quantity of timber had also been sold, which we were afterwards too glad to buy back again. The anchors were not the right sort. The swivels had been removed from the chain cables, and the cables were apt now to "kink." The cables moreover were not nearly thick enough for the present heavy ironclads, and their shape had been sacrificed to

the new "jiggamaree" capstans, as Sir James elegantly called them. So he rattled on, as if the House were an assemblage of dockyard labourers and ordinary seamen in beery conclave at a public-house in a dockyard town, having just reached that stage of conviviality when people are apt to become promiscuous. Well might Mr. Rylands look forlorn. This is Parliamentary criticism of the expenditure, and this is what we have to endure night after night when Supply is the order of the day. The mere reader of the newspapers knows nothing of the intensity of the infliction. All that he sees is that "Sir James Elphinstone condemned the administration of the dockyards by the present Government"; and when he observes that the reports of the debates are compressed into a column, he forgets that if the House met at four and rose at two, there must needs have been more than a column spoken. It would be a good thing to exclude all naval and military officers from the House. Not only have they a direct interest in keeping up the expenditure, but they seem to imagine that the House exists only for the purpose of giving them an opportunity of making known their grievances. There are more questions asked about pay and promotion in the army and navy than upon any other matter that comes before the House.

The University of Oxford objecting to the proposal to make Oxford the military centre, was wise in its generation in persuading Mr. Auberon Herbert, a pronounced Radical to oppose the proposal, and Mr. Mowbray, a pronounced Tory, to second it. It was a very politic device on the part of the University, although Mr. Herbert's pleadings did not carry many votes from his own side of the House. He made a speech which was declared by Mr. Mowbray to be so eloquent, and so this that and the other, that it left him, Mr. Mowbray, almost nothing to do. But, however eloquent Mr. Auberon Herbert's speeches may be, and that he is very fluent nobody can deny, they want backbone and stiffness. They do not stand firm and square, but waver and shake and never compel attention. They are in fact exactly like Mr. Herbert himself. Mr. Cardwell, with his prosaic heavy-handedness, made short work of him, and seemed even almost to condemn his adversary as unworthy of serious resistance. Unfortunately the effect of Mr. Herbert's speech, whatever effect there might have been legitimately due to it, was much spoilt by an accident which happened to Mr. Hughes, who coming in hastily sat down upon a glass of water by Mr. Herbert's side and smashed it, happily doing himself no serious injury. The orator must be a strong man who can conquer the anti-climax of a ludicrous interruption. I remember once hearing the effect of a most solemn song in an oratorio completely destroyed by a postman's knock which reverberated through the room in a very dramatic pause. Mr. Hughes quietly got another glass of water, and Mr. Herbert, after an affectionate inquiry whether any of the glass had penetrated his friend's body, did his best to take up the thread of his discourse, but it was somewhat ravelled.

The Government defeat over the Callan Committee was partly their own fault. Instead of sending the usual circular of urgency in the morning, a circular with only two "ticks" was sent, and many of their men therefore, were absent, not knowing that their presence was imperatively required. There was also a serious defection of Liberal members, the Scotch members alone who went over to the enemy almost sufficing to turn the scale. As the committee is at present constituted, it is of course a perfect farce and the conclusion is foregone. The addition of the names of Mr. Cross and Dr. Playfair was intended indeed by Mr. Bouverie and Mr. Vernon Harcourt to nullify the committee, and practically to place the House in the position in which it would have been if Mr. Bouverie's amendment had been carried the other day, that there should be no committee. Had I been in the House I should have voted with the Government on the ground that a committee once appointed, it was insulting to place men upon it whose opinions were well known before it commenced its sittings, and who it is certain will not change them. But nevertheless, the tenderness with which Mr. Gladstone has treated the Roman Catholics in this affair, all throughout, and the anxiety which he has shown to appease them, do contrast somewhat with his treatment of the Nonconformists, and suggest unpleasant and very independent reflections. Perhaps if the Dissenters could be persuaded to attend a treasonable meeting, over which two or three Nonconformist members could be persuaded to preside, and order an attack on a police-van, a little more consideration might be shown them.

We frequently congratulate ourselves upon the decency of our Parliamentary manners as compared with those of the House of Representatives in the United States, but we have persons in the House of Commons who know how to be rude. Thus, for example, it was said the other evening in the House by a distinguished member of the Opposition, below the gangway, who was talking about the Alabama claims, that when the Romans began to pay the barbarians for keeping away from Rome, their glory departed. If such a speech as this about ourselves had appeared in a New York paper, with descriptive comments by the reporter, giving the manner and tone of the rowdy who had spoken it, what virtuous leading articles would there not have been in the Conservative papers, what fervent thanksgivings for our superior refinement, for our "gentlemen," and for our bliss in being governed by gentlemen. We know here, that the aforesaid distinguished member is not typical of the House of Commons, but the American correspondents of our papers, compelled to be nothing or sensational and interesting, reproduce only the exceptions to the rule which prevails over there, and consequently we believe that the American legislature is so disorderly compared with our own—the truth being, that they are pretty much alike. It is this necessity for a selection of the sensational which distorts all opinions which we form through the newspapers of the state of foreign society.

C.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES BILL.

In the Commons on Wednesday there was a debate on the Contagious Diseases Acts (1866 and 1869). Mr. W. Fowler, in moving the second reading of a bill for repealing them, entered minutely into the statistics of the question, contending that the system of supervision they established was immoral, illusory, cruel, and unnecessary. Sir John Pakington, in moving that the bill be read a second time on that day six months, said after due consideration of the facts, he had come to regard these acts as a blessing to the country, and he trusted that public opinion would become so conscious of their good effects that ere long it might be possible gradually to extend their operation. Between eighty and ninety medical men in London, including some of the most eminent in the profession, and two thousand in various parts of England, had presented memorials to the Home Secretary, praying that the Government would not disturb the existing legislation on the subject. Mr. J. D. Lewis, speaking from personal knowledge of Devonport, thought it would be a greater misfortune for the borough if the acts were repealed than it were disfranchised. Colonel E. Leigh opposed the second reading, and hoped the subject was being discussed for the last time in the House. Mr. Mundella supported the motion. The evidence given before the royal commission led him to an opposite conclusion to that of Sir John Pakington. The conviction produced in his mind was that not only could the hospitals be maintained and the reclamations carried on without these Acts, but that the good resulting from the Acts could be extended to the whole country, instead of being limited to naval and military towns. With regard to the curative effects of which so much had been said, he contended that these effects were due more to the progress of medical science than to those Acts. For his own part, he was in favour of abolishing compulsory examination, and extending the system of hospitals throughout the country. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bruce referred to various reports and returns to show that in the three towns of Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Devonport, the Act had produced very beneficial results. As a further proof of the good arising from the Acts, he might instance the fact that clergymen, magistrates, and other persons of influence in the three towns were opposed to their repeal. Mr. Henley did not approve of official cognisance being taken of persons who lived in habitual defiance of God's laws and man's laws. This was, he believed, a downward course of legislation, and was following the example of other nations where the state of general morality was not nearly so high as in this country. Sir J. Trelawny, having been one of the commissioners who concurred in believing the Acts beneficial, wished to bear out every word spoken by Sir John Pakington. Mr. Cowper-Temple based his opposition to the Acts on the position in which the Government and the country were placed by undertaking to protect a permanent and organised system of vice. Mr. W. Fowler having replied, the House divided, and the bill was thrown out by 251 to 128 votes.

THE RATING QUESTION.

In the Commons on Thursday, on the second reading being moved of the Rating (Liability and Value) Bill, the first of Mr. Stansfeld's Local Taxation Bills, Mr. Cawley condemned the whole scheme as crude, immature, and utterly devoid of principle. He moved the rejection of the bills. Mr. Corrance seconded the amendment. Mr. Pease complained of the want of courage shown by the bill in dealing with the rating of mines; but all these objections might be met in committee, and furnished no reason

for rejecting bills which would be a great boon to the country. Mr. Reed opposed the repeal of the exemption at present enjoyed by Sunday and ragged schools. Mr. Hunt declared that the incomplete character of the bills showed that they were never meant to pass. Mr. Stansfeld repudiated the statement that the bills were not meant to pass, and replied to the various criticisms on their details. He said that mines were already amply defined by the law, and the method of valuing woods was thoroughly apprehended. With regard to the incompleteness of the bills, he urged that they were parts of a larger scheme to which the Government was pledged, and that they were designedly limited and practical that they might pass this session. As to the exemption of Sunday and ragged schools, he held out hopes—without giving any pledge until he had seen the precise form of the proposal—that the Government would not offer resistance if the House should be disposed to treat them in an exceptional manner. The debate was continued. Mr. Colman complained that the bills did not go far enough, and Sir Massey Lopes stigmatised them as an evasion of the resolution of last session. Eventually Mr. Cawley withdrew his amendment, and both the Rating (Liability and Value) Bill and the Valuation Bill were read a second time.

THE CALLAN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

On the nomination of the Callan Schools Committee, the names of Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Bourke, and The O'Connor Don having been agreed to, Mr. Vernon Harcourt proposed that the names of Mr. Cross and Dr. Playfair should be added to the list, contending that as the Government had submitted to the committee the consideration of the important question at stake—namely, how far ecclesiastical is to be supreme over civil authority—the tribunal ought to be larger, and to have more of the independent element on it. Lord Hartington said the Government would not object to this addition if the House wished it. Mr. Newdegate and Lord J. Manners supported the motion. Mr. Bouverie requested further information as to what the committee is to do, and criticised the composition of the committee, especially the appointment of Mr. Cardwell as chairman. Mr. H. James suggested the name of Mr. H. Matthews instead of Mr. Cross, and Mr. Gladstone urged the House not to discredit an act of justice, of policy, and of grace, by altering the complexion of the committee in a manner which would weaken the confidence of the Irish people in it. The committee would only inquire into the facts, and, whatever the result might be, the Government would be responsible for reviewing the conduct of the National Board. The name of Dr. Playfair was carried against the Government by 200 to 182 votes. A second division was taken on the name of Mr. Cross, which was carried by 205 to 165 votes.

THE TRANSFER OF LAND.

In the Lords on Friday, on the motion for the second reading of the Lord Chancellor's Land Titles and Transfer Bill, and Real Property Limitation Bill, Lord Cairns expressed his entire approval of the objects of the former, but said that on the whole he thought the latter and smaller measure was in reality the larger and more important of the two. The period of prescription was, some time since, reduced to twenty years; but the Lord Chancellor seemed to have taken his bill, and where he found a score, to have sat down quickly and written ten. The other periods seemed also to have been dealt with in the bill in a similar spirit. It seemed to him that the best plan would be to grant the shorter period of limitation by way of boon to those who registered their titles. As regards the larger bill, he objected to the proposal to render registration of title compulsory in the case of all land sold two years after the passing of the Act. It would be far better to let the measure make its way by its own merit. He objected also to the machinery by which the bill was proposed to be worked, for he was convinced that no measure would be successful which did not follow the Irish precedent of the Landed Estates Court. Lord Cairns suggested that the bill be referred to a select committee. The Lord Chancellor said that his object in shortening the period of prescription was that the proposed provision might operate as an inducement to the clearance of titles to be placed on the registry. If the bill were submitted to prolonged investigation before a select committee there would be little prospect of its becoming law during the existing session. During the Whitsuntide vacation he would consider what would be the proper course to pursue. The bills were read a second time.

THE ROCK OF CASHEL.

In the Lords on Monday Lord Stanley of Alderley moved the second reading of the Rock of Cashel Bill, and explained that its object was to enable the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Ireland and the Secretary of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland to transfer, with the consent of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Rock of Cashel and the buildings thereon to trustees, for the purpose of restoring the cathedral and preserving the historical ruins on the rock. Lord Middleton moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months. Lord Granville thought it rather too early a date after the passing of the Irish Church Act to upset the compromise come to by Parliament when that Act was under discussion; and, on division, the bill was rejected by 112 to 23 votes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Lowe will introduce a measure dealing with the Bank Act immediately after Easter.

The second reading of the Judicature Bill in the Commons is fixed for Monday, June 9.

On the same evening (June 9), Mr. W. E. Forster will bring in his bill for amending the Elementary Education Act.

Mr. Bruce has brought in a bill for the appointment of a public prosecutor.

On Friday, the Lords (who did not sit on Thursday, being Ascension Day), agreed to the second reading of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill, and the standing orders having been suspended, the bill passed through the remaining stages.

The vote of 3,200,000*l.* for the Alabama Indemnity was agreed to on Friday.

Sir Charles Wingfield drew attention to the Chinese coolie trade from Macao to Cuba and Peru. Lord Enfield admitted the horrors of the trade, but maintained that there had been an improvement recently. After some debate the subject dropped.

On Monday, in answer to Mr. Mundella, Mr. Bruce said that he had directed a letter to be written to the Chipping Norton magistrates about the women committed by them to prison under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, and expected, of course, in due time to receive a reply.

On Monday and yesterday a number of votes in the Navy Estimates were passed.

There was a long debate on the same evening raised by Mr. Bentinck on the changes in international law which insured our condemnation at Geneva.

Both Houses adjourned yesterday for the Whitsun holidays. The Commons will reassemble tomorrow week, the Lords on Monday, the 9th of June.

RESIGNATION OF M. THIERS. MARSHAL MACMAHON PRESIDENT.

The great debate on the interpellation of the Right which condemned the President's new Ministry as not being Conservative enough began on Friday. The Duc de Broglie opened. He referred to the recent elections as dangerous indications, declared that universal suffrage as now constituted might legally bring the Radicals into power, attacked M. Barodet and M. Ranc, and said that his new colleague, M. Ranc, belonged to the Commune in some of its worst days, insisted that there were frequent conflicts in the last Ministry, that the semi-official press preached subversive doctrines, and that the leading feature of the modifications was the dismissal of M. de Goulard, who alone represented Conservative tendencies. M. Dufaure's answer to this speech was that the Government was as anxious as the interpellators to repress Radicalism, but felt that the most essential preliminary step was to put an end to the provisional state of things, and declare the Republic definitive. He denied that there was any difference in principle between the present Ministry and the last. It was then formally announced that M. Thiers would speak next morning, and the Assembly separated amid great excitement.

On Saturday morning, at nine o'clock, the House was greatly crowded. M. Thiers spoke for some time, and in a tone which left no doubt that he intended to resign if he found himself in a minority. Immediately on the President resuming his seat, the Assembly, in accordance with the new law, adjourned, but met again at two. After an energetic speech from M. Casimir-Périer on behalf of the Government, an order of the day was presented by the Right, stating that the form of government is not under discussion, but that the new Ministry does not offer sufficient guarantees for Conservative interests. The Left demanded that the House should adopt the order of the day, pure and simple, which M. Dufaure declared the Government accepted. This order of the day was rejected by the Assembly by 362 votes against 348, showing a majority of 14 against the Government. The Assembly then proceeded to vote upon the above-mentioned order of the day, moved by M. Ernoul on the part of the Right, and of which the following is the text:—

Considering that the form of Government is not under discussion, that the Assembly is engaged in considering the constitutional laws presented in accordance with its decision, and which it has to examine, but that it is now important to reassure the country by causing the Government to adopt a resolute Conservative policy—the National Assembly regrets that the recent Ministerial changes have not afforded satisfaction to the interests of the Conservative party such as it had a right to expect.

This order of the day was adopted by 360 votes against 344. M. Baragnon demanded that the Government should declare its intentions, and the challenge was accepted by M. Dufaure. It was agreed to adjourn, and meet again at eight o'clock.

On the reassembling of the House, M. Dufaure ascended the tribune, and announced that the Ministers had resigned, and that their resignation had been accepted by M. Thiers. M. Dufaure proceeded to hand M. Buffet a message from M. Thiers, in which the latter announced that he delivered back to the Assembly the high functions which it had conferred upon him. The message added that the Government would continue to fulfil its duties until its successor was appointed. After a short interval, M. Buffet read the following proposition, signed by General Changarnier and the Duc de Broglie:—

The undersigned, taking into consideration the resignation of M. Thiers, propose that the Assembly shall at once proceed to vote for the appointment of his successor.

General Billot, a member of the Left, remarked that the resignation of M. Thiers had not yet been formally accepted, and M. George, another member of that party, declared that it would be unbecoming to propose a successor to M. Thiers before knowing whether the Assembly accepted the resignation of the President of the Republic. M. Buffet then read a motion signed by some members of the Left, declaring that the Assembly declined to accept the resignation. A vote being demanded, this motion was rejected by 368 votes against 339, and the Assembly then formally accepted the resignation. M. Buffet then attempted to commence an eulogium of M. Thiers, but was interrupted by tremendous exclamations from the Left. After a further uproarious scene, M. Buffet again read the proposal of General Changarnier for the nomination of M. Thiers' successor. The question was put to the vote, and Marshal MacMahon was proclaimed President of the Republic by 390 votes. The Left abstained from voting. The result was greeted with enthusiastic cheering from the Right. M. Buffet moved that the Bureaux should wait upon Marshal MacMahon and inform him of the vote of the Assembly, and that the sitting should not be adjourned until after his answer had been received. This course being approved, the President of the Assembly ceded the presidential chair to M. de Goulard, who was greeted with immense cheering by the Right. On his return M. Buffet said:—

Conformably to the order of the Assembly, a deputation had been to Marshal MacMahon. I ought to say to overcome his resistance, objections, and scruples, we had to appeal to his devotion to the country, of which he has already given so many proofs, and of which he has given a more striking proof in accepting such high and difficult functions, which he owes to having the confidence of the Assembly. Marshal MacMahon expressed a wish that the Ministers should continue to exercise their functions until a new Cabinet should be formed.

Marshal MacMahon sent the following letter to the Assembly:—

Gentlemen,—I obey the will of the Assembly, the depositary of the national Sovereignty, and accept the functions of the President of the Republic. A heavy responsibility is thrust upon my patriotism; but with the aid of God and the devotion of the army, which will always be an army of the law and the supporter of all honest men, we will continue together the work of liberating the territory and restoring moral order throughout the country; we will maintain internal peace, and the principles upon which society rests. That this shall be the case I pledge my word as an honest man and a soldier.

There was no disturbance in Paris or elsewhere, and prices rose on the Bourse.

The new Ministry is composed as follows:—The Duc de Broglie (Orleanist), Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice-President of the Council; M. Ernoul (Legitimist), Minister of Justice; M. Beulé, Minister of the Interior; M. Magne (Bonapartist), Minister of Finance; General Cissey, Minister of War, *ad interim*; Vice-Admiral Dompierre d'Horroy (Orleanist), Minister of Marine; M. Batbie (Legitimist), Minister of Public Instruction and Public Worship; M. Deseilligny, Minister of Public Works; M. de la Boullerie (Orleanist), Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. M. Pascal has been appointed Under-Secretary of State to the Ministry of the Interior.

It is said that the commercial policy of the new Government will be of a free-trade character, and that they proceed with the Constitutional bills introduced by their predecessors, but with some modifications, and it will shortly propose the appointment of a committee to examine those bills.

In the Assembly on Monday President Buffet read a message from the President of the Republic, in which Marshal MacMahon says that the Government are to be "resolutely Conservative." The Government "must introduce into and impress upon the Administration the spirit of Conservatism, and cause the laws to be respected by appointing agents who will cause them to be respected and respect them themselves." "We desire," says the message, "the maintenance of peace and the reorganisation of the army, which we shall actively persevere in effecting, animated only by a legitimate desire to repair the strength and retain the rank which belong to France." After the reception of this message the Assembly adjourned.

The journals of the Left unanimously recommend moderation and patience. M. Thiers took his seat in the Chamber yesterday, among the members of the Left Centre, and was received with three rounds of applause. The Left have resolved to advise Republican functionaries not to resign. The trial of Marshal Bazaine will probably be abandoned. The members of the Bonaparte family will also, it is believed, be all allowed to return to France.

The *Official Journal* of yesterday contains a long list of new prefects, all belonging to the Conservative party.

It is stated that the question of recognising the new French Government will be considered by the Berlin Cabinet as soon as the official notification of the accession to the Presidency of Marshal MacMahon shall have been received.

Marshal MacMahon is in his sixty-fifth year, having been born on June 13, 1808. His motto is "*J'y suis; j'y resterai*," upon which some of the Paris journals are just now humorously commenting.

The Commissioners of Sewers have refused to admit tramways into the City.

Epitome of News.

The Queen's birthday was celebrated on Saturday with loyal enthusiasm. At Balmoral Castle, where the Queen is residing, the Crathie Church choir assembled early in the morning under the castle windows, and sang a number of Scotch songs and the National Anthem. Elsewhere, both at home and abroad, the anniversary was celebrated with hearty loyalty by Her Majesty's subjects. The illuminations in London at night were considerable. Her Majesty's Ministers gave State dinners in honour of the anniversary. At Berlin the Queen's birthday was honoured by a grand dinner at the Imperial Palace.

The Rev. Dr. Caird, of Glasgow University, preached in the parish church, Crathie, on Sunday forenoon, from the words in the tenth verse of the twenty-third chapter of Numbers, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." Her Majesty, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and a good many strangers were present. The weather was fine and breezy, with bright sunshine.

By command of the Queen a State ball was given on Wednesday evening, at Buckingham Palace, to which a party of upwards of 1,800 was invited, the Princess of Wales representing Her Majesty. On Monday the Duke of Edinburgh held a levée at St. James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales has been staying at Darmstadt, on a visit to the Princess Alice, and is to be on Epsom Downs to-day.

Mr. Macartney has withdrawn the petition against the return of Captain Corry for Tyrone, in view of a probable early dissolution.

Mr. J. C. Dundas was on Monday elected without opposition for the borough of Richmond in succession to the present Earl of Zetland.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., has consented to preside at Mill Hill School on the New Foundation Day, June 11.

The Bristol papers report that a society has been formed in that city, to suppress indecent and profane language in the streets.

Arbitration is, according to Mr. Halliday's evidence before the Coal Committee, desired by the miners, in all disputes between masters and men.

A reduction in the tariff for the despatch of messages by the Atlantic Cable will take place from the 1st of June. The new rate will be four shillings per word.

The Birmingham Town Council have resolved to obey the mandate of the Court of Queen's Bench directing them to comply with the precept of the School Board.

Last week there was a most painful accident at the Junior Carlton Club, leading to the death of Mr. Frank Graham, of Kensington. The deceased was descending the well-staircase with two friends, when it was proposed that they should try who could vault down the top flight in the fewest jumps, with the aid of the banister-rail. Mr. Graham, in taking the spring, overbalanced himself, fell sixty feet, and survived only an hour or two.

Mr. J. P. Knight, R.A., secretary to the Royal Academy, and Mr. Charles Landseer, R.A., the "keeper," have resigned their offices. The *Morning Post* says that in consideration of their long and valuable services the council have voted them pensions equivalent to their salaries.

Mr. T. W. Boord, connected with a firm of distillers in the city, has offered himself as a Conservative candidate for Greenwich. He avows himself opposed to Popery and Ritualism.

Three conferences of the Mormons connected with the London district were held on Sunday in the Amphitheatre, Holborn. "President George A. Smith," who is described as the successor of Brigham Young, was present.

Mr. Bright, having been asked whether he adhered to the opinions in advocacy of Republican institutions in America, as expressed in many of his published speeches, the right hon. gentleman replies that arguments which may be rightly used here in favour of monarchy may also be used, and with like force, in America, in favour of a republic.

Mr. E. S. Ellis has been elected chairman, and Mr. M. W. Thompson, late M.P. for Bradford, deputy chairman, of the Midland Railway Company.

Mr. C. Reed, M.P., on Thursday introduced a deputation to Mr. Stansfeld, whose members entered a protest against the proposition of the Ministry to repeal the act of 1869, under which Sunday and ragged schools claimed exemption from rating. The right hon. gentleman pointed out that it was now proposed to repeal every exemption, including that upon Government property; still, the views of the deputation should be duly considered, and laid before his colleagues.

At Wednesday's meeting of the London School Board it was agreed to appoint two assistant board inspectors of schools, at a salary of 150*l.* a-year each, to assist the inspectors in their work. The salaries of the visitors for three of the divisions were also increased 10*l.* a-year. It was stated that in the course of the next six months it was hoped that about fifty permanent schools would be ready for occupation. In order to provide for the furnishing of these schools, the school management committee recommended that they should be authorised to make arrangements for the supply of desks for 50,000 children within the next six months.

Literature.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY'S ESSAYS.*

No one who reads the volume of "Critiques and Addresses" which Professor Huxley has collected and republished can be surprised that he is one of the most popular teachers of the day. The subjects which he treats—those of a scientific character in particular—he has thoroughly mastered, and, what is of more importance, he is as skilful in teaching as he is ripe in attainment. His scientific expositions are a marvel of lucidity, fulness, and accuracy, and they invest topics which appear to be dry with a wonderful charm, even for the uninitiated. Take, for example, the lecture on the "Formation of Coal" in the volume before us. With what exquisite simplicity is the subject introduced. With what care and minuteness are the facts which throw light upon it developed, so that the reader is made to understand every step of the process by which Nature has made this wonderful provision for the wants of man; how skilfully is the whole discussion lighted up by historic and other references, until it becomes as attractive as a fairy tale. The closing sentences alone are sufficient illustration of the author's remarkable power as a teacher:—

"Thus, all this abundant wealth of money and of vivid life is Nature's interest upon her investment in club-mosses, and the like, so long ago. But what becomes of the coal which is burnt in yielding this interest? Heat comes out of it, light comes out of it, and if we could gather together all that goes up the chimney, and all that remains in the grate of a thoroughly-burnt coal-fire, we should find ourselves in possession of a quantity of carbonic acid, water, ammonia, and mineral matters, exactly equal in weight to the coal. But these are the very matters with which Nature supplied the club-mosses which made the coal. She is paid back principal and interest at the same time; and she straightway invests the carbonic acid, the water, and the ammonia in new forms of life, feeding with them the plants that now live. Thrifty Nature! Surely no prodigal, but most notable of housekeepers!"

Equally striking and beautiful is the paper on "Corals and Coral Reefs," with its graphic pictures of the grand operations which, with unvarying constancy, Nature has been carrying on through periods of unmeasured duration. So, too, his papers on Biology, which occupy a considerable portion of the volume, are of the highest value even to those who may dissent most widely from the conclusions which he reaches, as the ablest and most complete statement of the views of the influential and scientific school which he represents. If the theologian desires to understand the exact position of the man of science, on what points he is in determined opposition to the idea of orthodoxy, what possibility there is of reconciliation or what modification of received views the facts he is able to adduce should produce, he can nowhere learn it so readily and so thoroughly as from these writings of Professor Huxley. He is no doubt a difficult antagonist to deal with, but even though an opponent may sometimes fancy that there is a tone of intellectual superiority which he may be disposed to resent, he cannot complain that there is any unfairness. The hitting is often hard enough, for Mr. Huxley has no idea of trying to make the truth more palatable by the mode in which he puts it; but, if distinct and decided, he is fair and courteous. His review of "Mr. Darwin's 'Critics'" is a remarkable specimen of criticism, the acuteness and vigour of which must be appreciated by opponents as well as friends. To the former especially it shows that such controversial weapons as Mr. St. George Mivart and the *Quarterly Review* have employed will be of little avail in the discussion. It would be impossible for us here to enter into a discussion of his views as to the present antagonism between theology and science, but we cannot but sympathise with the sentiment which he expresses when, after quoting the Bishop of Brechin's remarkable utterance, "Liberalism in religion—I do not mean tender and generous allowance for the mistakes of others—is unfaithfulness to truth," he adds, "with the same qualification, I venture to paraphrase the bishop's dictum, 'Ecclesiasticism in science is only unfaithfulness in truth.' He may be assured there are numbers of men who hold fast by the old faith of the Gospel, who feel this as strongly as he can do, who are just as much disposed to resent the usurpations of authority, and who, though they might not have put in the same language he adopts, are yet 'content once for all not only to renounce the good things which 'infallibility' promises, but even to bear the bad things which it promises; content to follow reason and fact in singleness and honesty of purpose, wherever

"they may lead, in the sure faith that a hell of 'honest men will to them be more endurable than a paradise full of angelic shams.' The men of science must not suppose that this simple and uncompromising loyalty to truth is to be found only on their side; still less are they to assume that those who follow only reason and fact will necessarily arrive at their conclusions. We do not expect that the differences of opinion between true and honest men on both sides are likely to be speedily removed, but there is, as it appears to us, an amount of misunderstanding which a more anxious care on the part of each to understand the position of the other might dispel.

We turn, however, from these scientific questions in relation to which all candid and intelligent men who desire fully to understand their bearings will betolerably sure to avail themselves of Professor Huxley's help, to the discussion in his two opening papers of some social and educational questions. The essay on "Administrative Nihilism" is directed against what has been called somewhat contemptuously the *laissez faire* system of national policy, and which Mr. Huxley describes as "astynocratic or police government." We must confess that its effect on us has been to satisfy us of the essential soundness of the principle on which that much-assailed system rests, by bringing out clearly the dangers of departing from it. If it be once granted that "the positive advancement of the peace, wealth, and the intellectual and moral development of its members, are objects which the Government, as the representatives of the corporate authority of society, may justly strive after, in fulfilment of its end—the good of mankind," we are unable to see what possible restrictions can be put upon the action of the State, or in what way we are to be saved from the adoption of the extreme communistic theory. The development of an influential school of Liberal politicians, disposed to extend more and more the action of the State, we regard with some anxiety. How far Mr. Huxley himself is prepared to go is evident from the following passage:—

"Again, I suppose it is universally agreed that it would be useless and absurd for the State to attempt to promote friendship and sympathy between man and man directly. But I see no reason why, if it be otherwise expedient, the State may not do something towards that end indirectly. For example, I can conceive the existence of an Established Church which should be a blessing to the community. A Church in which, week by week, services should be devoted, not to the iteration of abstract propositions in theology, but to the setting before men's minds of an ideal of true, just, and pure living; a place in which those who are weary of the burden of daily cares, should find a moment's rest in the contemplation of the higher life which is possible for all, though attained by so few; a place in which the man of strife and of business should have time to think how small, after all, are the rewards he covets compared with peace and charity. Depend upon it, if such a Church existed, no one would seek to disestablish it."

A dream such as this is never likely to be realised, and it is not necessary therefore that we should direct any force of serious argument against it; but we may note in passing how entirely Mr. Huxley, careful thinker as he is, and desirous to deal with perfect impartiality, fails to apprehend the position of a large body of earnest Christian believers. A church of the kind which he depicts, in which there should not be the iteration of what he calls "abstract propositions in theology," but what they would describe as those living spiritual truths which are at the basis of true morality, would be to them simply an offence; and the State, in setting it up, would be interfering with the conscientious convictions of numbers of its subjects, just as much as in maintaining a Church which obeys an Episcopate and proclaims an Athanasian creed. The same error is at the root of his objection to the secularist view of education, whose promoters, he says, "have unwisely and wrongfully admitted the assumption of their opponents, and demand 'the abolition of all religious teaching, when they only want to be free of theology—burning your ship to be free of the cock-roaches.'" But surely, if equal justice is to be done to all kinds of opinions, the secularists are right. For even if the position of the denominationalists is only an assumption, still it is theirs, and the party which believes in religion apart from theology has no more right to force its views upon them than to have their views enforced upon itself. They want to get rid not only of theological teaching, but of the notion that the State has any right to coerce consciences on either side. Mr. Huxley's advocacy of Bible reading in public schools was a great consolation to a certain class of minds at the time, and whatever we may think of the wisdom of his inference, his testimony to the worth of the Bible is very remarkable:—

"I have always been strongly in favour of secular education, in the sense of education without theology; but I must confess I have been no less seriously per-

plexed to know by what practical measures the religious feeling which is the essential basis of conduct, was to be kept up, in the present utterly chaotic state of opinion on these matters, without the use of the Bible. The Pagan moralists lack life and colour, and even the noble Stoic, Marcus Antoninus, is too high and refined for an ordinary child. Take the Bible as a whole; make the severest deductions which fair criticism can dictate for shortcomings and positive errors; eliminate, as a sensible lay-teacher would do, if left to himself, all that is not desirable for children to occupy themselves with; and there still remains in this old literature a vast residuum of moral beauty and grandeur. And then consider the great historical fact that, for three centuries, this book has been woven into the life of all that is best and noblest in English history; that it has become the national epic of Britain, and is as familiar to noble and simple, from John-o'-Groat's House to Land's End, as Dante and Tasso once were to the Italians; that it is written in the noblest and purest English; and abounds in exquisite beauties of mere literary form; and, finally, that it forbids the veriest hind who never left his village to be ignorant of the existence of other countries and other civilisations, and of a great past, stretching back to the furthest limits of the oldest nations in the world. By the study of what other book could children be so much humanised and made to feel that each figure in that vast historical procession fills, like themselves, but a momentary space in the interval between two eternities; and earns the blessings or the curses of all time, according to its effort to do good and hate evil, even as they also are earning their payment for their work?"

Surely when the leader of the scientific world can write thus of the Bible, the reconciliation between science and theology is not so impossible as it sometimes appears. The paper on "School Boards" was written before the famous 25th Clause controversy broke out, and it is curious to mark how entirely so able and far-seeing a man had failed to anticipate the difficulty. But we must not be seduced further into these educational questions, and we leave the volume with a testimony, which we feel to be almost superfluous, not only to the great intellectual power, by which it is characterised, but also to the author's evident desire to utilise it for the advancement of knowledge and the elevation of humanity. Christian teachers must not regard such men only as adversaries, but rather as fellow-workers, who need, indeed, to be more fully instructed in the truths of the Kingdom of God, but who are seeking after light, and can only be led into the marvellous light of the Gospel by those who prove themselves capable of sympathising with their difficulties.

REVELATION AS LIGHT.*

This volume now comes to us with a mournful interest. The good bishop departed this life just as it was being published. He was one of those men who, with their fine aspiration and conciliatory temper, are adornments to any Church, and, if there were more among the Episcopalians of Scotland like him in this regard, there would be the more hope for their Church. But in Scotland, as though fully to justify the title, Episcopalianism has always tended to be extreme. It affects High-Churchism, keeps itself apart, scorning any efforts at conciliation with Presbyterians; and it loses accordingly in breadth, depth, and real weight. It has attached to itself many of the landed gentry, but their influence is slight; for Scotland is democratic, and the lower and middle classes do not largely follow the lead of the squirearchy. Scottish Episcopalianism in its higher form has rather tended to promote the breach between the lower and higher ranks, or at any rate to foster indifference towards each other. This was a point which the late Dean Ramsay clearly saw and mourned over, and used all the force of his rare character to relieve. And such men as Dean Ramsay and Bishop Ewing will be all the more missed in their communion and in Scotland; for it was something that sympathy with their Church should not be wholly lost in such men as, say, Dr. Norman Macleod and Dr. Thomas Guthrie. Bishop Ewing belonged to what we should call the moderate broad school. Though he took little part in politics, he was very active and interested in all social questions, and was ceaseless in efforts to dissociate Christian teaching from the entanglements of the Calvinistic catechism. His theology, in the first place, assorted with his temper, which was not logical but, based in a mild mysticism, and was apt to seek out meanings that satisfied the heart rather than justified themselves by stringent processes of reasoning. He objected to clothe his convictions in set terms, and to all appearance rather eschewed ordered logical result; so that a touch of diffuseness and indirectness is now and then imparted to his writing; but a glow of sympathy and tenderness always suffuses and elevates it. He disliked to think of God in any aspect save the fatherly one, and he used all the

* *Revelation Considered as Light.* A Series of Discourses. By the Right Rev. ALEX. EWING, D.C.L., Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in the Scottish Episcopal Church. (Strahan and Co.)

* *Critiques and Addresses.* By THOMAS HUXLEY, LL.D., F.R.S. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

powers of his mind and imagination to impress the truth that any view of God which does not carry with it the happy assent of our higher nature is thereby proclaimed narrow and deficient. All nature was a semi-mystery till seen in the light of Christ, who came, not to add a mystery, but to open all; and the one way into the mystery was by practical recognition of Christ in the life, that thus He might become a Revealer. The reason *per se* could only thus in the final result be completely satisfied.

The present volume contains thirteen sermons, all characterised by elevated aim, now and then touched by a quiet eloquence, and suffused with the poetry of a mind that had fair share of the Celtic and fancy love of nature. Perhaps the two most characteristic sermons are those entitled "Design" and "Progress"; and the most likely to be popular those on "The New Year" and on "Missions," which is the last. The eighth, on "The Divine Nature," is full of thought and has felicitous expression here and there, but deals in rather a vague way with a subject which, if treated at all in this style, demands something of "close grip." We wish we had time to analyse the sermons more particularly; we must content ourselves with presenting two paragraphs, which will give a taste of the late bishop's style. The first is from the sermon on "Jacob's wrestling with the Angel," which is made symbolical of all our spiritual wrestling:—

"The angel does not as yet tell us his name, but we begin to spell out the letters of it. There is a dawn in the east; the night is far spent—day is breaking. The night, we find, was a school, the struggle an alphabet, our dark times hard books and dictionaries, parts and particles, as it were the bits of a dissected map which is becoming whole. There is a sound of sense gathering out of the disjointed syllables; a world is gathering together out of fragments; the dry bones are beginning to look like life; a future we find coming out of the present, made by it, a future of which the present is the factor—a bright future, a wonderful world, a hymn of praise from the cries of the battle-field and the dying. The angel is beginning to be less dark; but he has not yet given his name. The last stage, however, comes at last, and we cry, 'My Lord and my God!' We find him no dark angel, but a light one who has become dark, that we might by that very darkness be able to lay hold of him. The angel, the circumstances, the trials of life, we find are all part of one thing—that God has given them; that He, in short, has become of them; that He Himself has done these things for us, has felt them for us and with us, and assumed them, that we from the steps of our own dead selves, and from Him dead for us, smitten for us, broken for us, cleft for us, should rise up, and flow together with Him and by Him, and in Him, as one with Him, and so able to reign with Him, by what he reigns by, for ever."

And this, from the sermon on "Progress," has its own bearing and significance:—

"The new aspects of nature are not explained by the past definition of Christ by the Churches. And the attempts made by some, as lately by the Church of Rome, have made matters worse. Yet Christ is God, and the worlds are God's; one and the same mind and plan pervade both. It is not as yet seen, however, so to be, and therefore a work and struggle is before us, a time of darkness and of battle, ere we can harmonise and explain the one by the other. It is the struggle in the dark of Jacob with the angel—the angel without the name; the struggle which breaks the thigh ere the light comes and the morning dawns on the sons of God. As with Mary at the sepulchre, Christ will be taken for the gardener; or, as with the apostles in the boat, for a spirit; or, with the disciples on the way to Emmaus, for a traveller, ere He is truly known. He will not at once be known under unaccustomed forms. It will take time ere the true end comes, and Christ again be really recognised."

The volume is dedicated in expressive terms to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and is very chaste in design and finish.

BRIEF NOTICES.

In *Searching the Net* (Strahan and Co.), Mr. LEICESTER WARREN gives little or no more verge to popular elements than in his former volumes, but he is always graceful, finished, with peculiar chastity of expression which is sometimes wrought upon to the extent of losing colour, but which is very suitable to his semi-classical conceptions. "Jael" is a very finished piece of work, but it is, in its central thought, heathen rather than Jewish. The passage beginning thus is very fine:—

God saw her up in heaven,
The lark outside went on with his old songs,
The sheep grazed and the floating clouds came past,
Yet it was done.

"Two Old Kings" has a kind of severe strength; some of the shorter pieces are very dainty in finish, especially "A Sketch at Evening"—with a certain dash of the quaint grotesque thrown into them which rather reminds us of Heine. We think that on the whole the work in this volume shows a decided advance on former ones.

In *Little Hodge* (H. S. King and Co.) Mr. Jenkins has made good use of his knowledge of the Agricultural Labourers' Union, and has written a very effective story, which is now published uniform with the earlier editions of "Ginx's Baby." His picture of the want, hunger, and wretchedness of the poor Hodges who labour for eight or ten shillings per week, is very powerful, and he contrives to throw in humour and pathos in such a manner as make you surprised at the sudden

changing emotions you experience in the reading. The squire and the parson are very well done, and the Yankee, Settle, is a good *Deus ex machina*, who lifts the cloud off a very dark world by whipping away the superfluous human growths, handily, to Ottawa. This Yankee's style of talk is, by the way, something really good. The little bit of love story between Henry Ewbank and Miss Birton is very well done, and on the whole "Little Hodge" may be said to be original and powerful.

Betsy Lee, a Foc'sle Yarn (Macmillan), we noticed when it appeared in the magazine. The careful study of it as a whole does not, however, deepen our sense of its merits. We see that it is affected here and there instead of natural. But it has unmistakeable power—a rude humour grotesquely intertwined now and then with a pathetic element, which is masterly. The second part, though it more abounds in this element than the earlier one, is hardly so strong and well sustained.

In *Sermons on the Prodigal Son* (Hayes), the Rev. Thomas Hancock shows decided ability. He orders his topics well, and now and then rises into quiet earnestness. But we, of course, have no sympathy with the priestly affectations of Mr. Hancock or his school, though members of it have over and over again commanded our admiration by their earnestness and power of labour. When men like Mr. Hancock speak in defence of confession in that modified, suggestive manner now so common with men who write themselves "priest," we feel drawn to smile, and wonder whether we read a production of the nineteenth century or the seventeenth.

Mr. F. Reginald Statham is a sceptic of liberal and so far reverential turn, who cannot see that Christianity efficiently realises itself through the systems that claim to reveal and interpret it—which is hardly a novelty—and who at the same time can see faults in the systems which have set themselves up to supersede and suppress it. He has philosophic acumen and breadth enough to pronounce Comtism a portentous pretence and failure; while yet he apparently clings to something like "Humanitarianism" for the future, and looks forward to some inexplicable development of humanity which shall set "disorganisations" right. This is a sort of pseudo-individualism—we cannot else name it. His result is, "An advance must be an individual advance, an improvement of the individual man, through which 'improvement will result to society.'" From *Old to New* has some good thoughts, and is written with considerable ease and dignity of style; but it is in its main points inconclusive and unsatisfactory, in spite of a great deal of reserve in forming opinions, and a great guardedness in case of seeming to be dogmatical. *The Social Growth of the Nineteenth Century* in some sort supplements *From Old to New*, and is marked by much the same characteristics. If possible, it makes its points more incisively in discussing Republicanism, Evangelicalism, Humanitarianism, Cantism, &c. On this last he has some very good passages. Here is one:—

"There is a growing tendency among young men to take up with Comtism, and I must confess that I cannot regard this tendency as almost unmixedly calamitous: for these persons are not converts to Comtism by reason of its truth, but by reason of its falseness; not on account of its philosophy, but on account of its glitter and attractiveness of this social or religious system which has so mischievously and so hastily been connected with and added to the philosophy. Nothing is so attractive to young minds as machinery; nothing appears to them more glorious (as we have scriptural instances to remind us) than to sit, as it were, on the right hand and on the left of some new lawgiver, some new system that is beginning to become popular. . . . I could not, in speaking of this movement or growth of our time, which I have called humanitarianism, in any way accept Comtism as an evidence of its existence. Whatever Comtism may be, whatever may be the results and future development (and I have not strong fears that it will add much to the detriment of true philosophy), it is not that broad inclusive thing to which ought to be given the name of humanitarianism; it is not so, most of all, because it ignores, to a most dangerous extent, individual freedom and diversity of character. Humanitarianism forms the shifting of the intellectual centre of gravity, it is evidenced wherever, either avowedly or tacitly, the benefit of men is placed before all things instead of the glory of God. It is not a growth, as I have said, which as yet is easily recognised; it cannot be until the unreality which it succeeds is recognised as an unreality."

And that unreality, in a word, so far as we can make out, is simple *Theism*. So far Mr. Statham has advanced in his search for the truth, and we cannot doubt his sincerity.

ROMAN CATHOLIC VOTERS.—The *Times* states that in preparation for the approaching election, the Roman Catholic body are bestirring themselves in London with unwonted activity. A meeting of leading Roman Catholics, including both clergy and laity, was held a few days since at the residence of the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Talbot in Golden-square, when the Duke of Norfolk took the chair, and a committee was formed for the special purpose of "the immediate organisation of Catholic voters." This work, we understand, is to be carried out by the employment of paid agents, assisted by a committee formed in each Roman Catholic congregation. It is stated by *Catholic Opinion* that "a notice addressed to Catholic voters will shortly be exhibited in the churches of the Archdiocese of Westminster."

THE ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Another welcome addition was made on Saturday last to the attractions of the great metropolis by the opening of the beautiful Palace for the People which now crowns the summit of Muswell Hill. It is to be questioned whether, in or near London, the eye can rest on a fairer scene than that which greets it as you stand on the terrace and look on the wide expanse below. If you cannot see the Thames, and thus lack the charm of water, you can look across it and contemplate dimly the outline of the Surrey and the Kentish hills. At our feet lie Hornsey and Wood Green, and the Great Northern Railway perpetually whirling along its tens of thousands of passengers to Manchester, or Leeds, or Bradford, or York, or to Newcastle and across the frontier to Edinburgh or Aberdeen. On one side is Highgate, with its memories of Coleridge and Lord Bacon; on another Hampstead. Yonder is Finchley, with its common where Dick Turpin's oak may yet be seen. Further off is the old grey tower of Barnet. Amidst a clump of trees, a little to the right, you see the spire of the new church at Southgate, the pretty Middlesex village in which Leigh Hunt counted it a privilege to be born. Follow the line of rail that branches off from Wood Green, and you come to Enfield, where Charles Lamb died and where Keats was born, and recognise in the high grounds beyond what of Epping forest the gentlemen of England and the speculative builders between them have left the artisans of London. As you look there you will rejoice in the fact that the two hundred and twenty acres of ground occupied by the Alexandra Palace and Park have thus been secured for the healthy sport and pastimes of the public. I presume this is the general opinion of the ministers of all denominations. At any rate they seemed to say as much by their presence there on Saturday. On that day the gathering was unexpectedly large, Lords and Commons, ladies old and young, civic dignitaries, the gentlemen of the fourth estate, the celebrities of art and music were all to be met swarming in the palace and the ground, and yet there was no Prince or member of the Royal Family present, and the opening *fête* consisted of but a concert under the direction of Sir Michael Costa, aided by such artists as Mdlle. Titiens and Natalie Corola, and a flower show.

It is said the sight of a good man struggling with difficulties is dear to the gods. If a similar remark is to be applied to undertakings, then the Alexandra Palace has every reason for thankfulness. For years what to do with the site has been the problem which in vain has one train of speculators and promoters after another tried to solve. In the attempt two or three companies have failed. It was in vain, even when the late Lord Mayor of London came to their relief. It is now, however, an accomplished fact. Some very great capitalists must have been at work, for the building, which is the old Exhibition of 1862, has been removed from Hyde-park to Muswell Hill at an expense of some five or six hundred thousand pounds; the grounds have been laid out with taste and judgment; a railway has been made to run from the Highgate station of the Highgate and Edgware line right into the palace; and no means have been left unturned to make the place what it promises to be, a great success. Part of this success is undoubtedly due to the care and energy and wisdom of the officials, such as Mr. Gilbert Redgrave, the General Manager, Messrs. Spackman and Martin, and Major G. De Winton, heads of fine arts and exhibition, and Baraar and Foreign Departments. Great credit is also due to Mr. A. Mackenzie, who has arranged the grounds in the most effective manner. It is not a garden in which the visitor will wander; but a park, with hill and dale, little lakelets, and grand old trees, where wandered Dryads for ages, who must have shrieked on Saturday as the railway landed its thousands of gay pleasure-seekers, as did, we are told, the gods and goddesses of heathendom, when it was whispered through the world that Pan was dead. The building thus formally opened to the public, consists of an elegant and substantial structure 900ft. in length, by an extreme width of 430ft., and is arranged in the form of a nave with three transepts, the central one of which is surmounted by a dome 170ft. in diameter, and 220ft. high. Internally it is surrounded by galleries. Along the nave are ranged flowering plants and shrubs and statues. Under the central dome are placed fountains, four statues by Mr. Joseph Durham, A.R.A., representing Milton, Newton, Harvey, and Bentham, and four figures by that eminent artist, Brucciani, representing Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The great attraction of this part of the building is the organ erected by Mr. Henry Willis, under the superintendence of Sir Michael Costa. On the same side further west is a concert hall for chamber and classical music, intended to accommodate three thousand visitors. At the side of the building nearer the entrance from Woodgreen, is a most complete and perfect theatre erected from the designs of Messrs. T. Grieve and Sons, under the superintendence of Messrs. Meeson and Johnson, the company's architects. The dimensions of this theatre are very nearly the size of Drury-lane. When performances are going on it will be shut off from the rest of the Palace by heavy curtains, and daylight will be effectually and artificially excluded. At the other side of the building are the luncheon and dining-rooms, and refreshment buffets, which are under the care of the well-known caterers for the public in the way of good things, Messrs. Bertram and Roberts. It may be men-

tioned here that with a view to the accommodation of public bodies, such as Odd Fellows and Foresters, who want to dine a thousand or fifteen hundred strong, outside the Palace a little nearer Wood-green is a building expressly devoted to this purpose. Originally it was intended for a gymnasium. It is now converted, at an expense of some 12,000*l.*, into a handsome and commodious dining-hall in old English style. Further, it may be observed here that the kitchens connected with the culinary department are in the further basement, and that they are as complete and perfect as anything of the kind can be.

Music, as already indicated, forms the chief attraction of the palace; but it is strong, perhaps quite as strong, in the matter of the fine arts. In one picture-gallery is a unique collection of ancient tapestry, lent by Mr. George Attenborough. In another room is a collection of water-colours—perhaps the finest in the kingdom—lent by a wealthy amateur. It is enough to write of it that it includes sixteen Turners—one of them "The Oberwesel"—and thirty Coxes, to say nothing of Cattermole, and Prout, and Lewis Haig, and other artists more or less in repute. In another room is a fine specimen of portrait painting by Sir Francis Grant, and a beautiful Millais, a little girl dancing a minuet. In another room the principal are a fine sea-piece by Turner, for which 5,000 guineas have been refused. There are some rare pictures here, one by Fuseli, for instance, and by Smirke—his "Lord and Lady Towneley," from the "Provoked Husband," Pickersgill's "Love's Labour's Lost," Faed's "Orange Seller," Clarkson Stanfield's "Island of Ischia," Ansell's "Two Donkeys," W. B. Davis's "Spring Ploughing," Elmore's "Tulleries," the "Chatelaine," by Leslie, G. H. Thomas's "Rotten Row," "Eugene Aram," by Redgrave, "St. Paul's and Blackfriars," by David Roberts, Mr. Ward's "Marie Antoinette," and other favourites with the public are here to be seen. Downstairs there is also a fine and rare collection of English pottery and porcelain, lent by Her Majesty the Queen, and other fortunate individuals. Bow, Fulham, Chelsea, and other rare wares are to be met with in profusion. The collection begins with the Elers, as far back as 1688. A rich collection of Wedgwood caskets is here to be seen; also the medallions of the same artist are numerous and beautiful. Perhaps the other most notable things in the palace are the model cottages and courts, up and down each side of the nave, in which are placed groups of figures representing national costumes, which created a great sensation in the Paris Exhibition. One represents the interior of a Chinese tea-shop; another a Lapland snow-scene; another a Norwegian hut; another a wedding in Brittany, and so on. It may be added that the ornamentation of the place is very good; and that the colours of pillars, and roof, and galleries, and walls, is especially grateful to the eye. If it is not too much vulgarised by its horse-races, on the whole it may be said that the Alexandra Palace bids fair to be remunerative to the proprietors, and to be an immense boon to the inhabitants especially of what have been called the northern heights of London.

HENRY WARD BEECHER AT HOME.

(From a New York Correspondent.)

One of the first sights an Englishman should see on arriving in New York is undoubtedly Plymouth Church, not, perhaps, from the sight-seeing point of view, so much as because it will give a more tempered idea of the shallowness of American religious services by showing that in one, at least, of the city's churches, deep piety and earnest effort have borne good fruit. Crossing the Fulton Ferry from New York to Brooklyn, it needs no inquiry as to where Beecher's is. You have only to quietly follow the crowd to find yourself before a plain and comprehensive erection in a comparatively retired street. If the bell has not yet done tolling, you are requested to wait till the regular seatholders have taken their places, when so far as is possible each person is provided with a comfortable place. The aisles are arranged with pull-down chairs, which open and close with great facility, and are invariably all occupied. Once comfortably seated and looking around, you find yourself in a large oblong building, with rounded corners, in the centre of the back end of which is a semicircular rostrum for the preacher. The church is white, and almost perfectly plain, its neatness harmonising well with the somewhat puritanical simplicity of the *tout ensemble*. A wide gallery runs round the entire building, that part behind the pulpit being occupied by the organ and a choir of sixty members. An upper gallery at the extreme back, opposite, accommodates a larger number. The choir are, with one or two exceptions, volunteers from the congregation, and their singing does great credit to the painstaking efforts of the well-known precentor, Mr. Camp. The organ is a magnificent instrument, though somewhat heavy of architecture. It has four movements and a large number of stops. The case front is arranged with sixteen feet open metal pipes left entirely without decoration. Mr. Beecher has now quietly mounted his platform, and there removed his cloak and laid it on the floor, taking his seat upon the chair at the back. His reading-desk is a simple oaken table on a single leg, which appears to grow out of a bed of flowers, white roses and arums being artistically arranged. Two large epergnes of glass filled with choice flowers, one on either side, give a grateful fragrance and cheerful

brightness to the rostrum. Mr. Beecher himself is a tall fair man, erect in bearing and quiet in his movements, his face beaming with kindness and endless charity towards all men. His hair is somewhat grey, and he wears no whiskers or beard. The service commences with an alto solo, sung with exquisite taste and feeling, and a refrain from the choir, the congregation being seated, after which, Mr. Beecher reads a chapter from the Bible, and then offers a short prayer. Then a hymn by the whole body, and a pouring out of song it is, which does one good to hear. Then a string of notices and a short prayer and another hymn, after which, the sermon. Mr. Beecher so far, does not greatly impress you with his marvellous power of oratory, being an indifferent reader, and not extraordinary in prayer, but the moment his sermon, or address, or appeal—for it is more the latter than the former—begins, the attention is riveted, and not a word is lost. His speech is deliberate, even somewhat slow, but every word tells, and there is not a syllable superfluous. He is intensely practical, sometimes pathetic, often mirthful, though not broad, provoking a smile which seems to make its presence heard without partaking of the nature of a titter, but always true to his text, always showing forth the loving kindness of the Almighty and His mercy to all men. His text was taken from Mark v. 25-35, the story of the healing of the woman who had an issue of blood. The discourse lasted just forty minutes, and from beginning to end was teeming with graceful and appropriate simile, practical suggestion, and holy and encouraging thought. On such a subject, such a man could necessarily say much, but his discourse was the more pleasing in its perfect naturalness, there being no straining after effect, no endeavour to prove things either improbable or impossible. His sermon can be understood by the weakest intellect, and is just as encouraging to the strongest nevertheless, being apparently the outcome of the man's own enthusiasm for what is good. His power over his hearers is wonderful, the attention being rapt, profound, and sustained throughout. The simple conclusion, "And may God add His blessing," was the removal of a barrier to all movement, and a wave of pent-up emotion goes through the whole assembly. A final hymn, and the preacher's concluding benediction brings to a close a thoroughly genuine service—one which cannot fail to do good to all taking part in it, and one which even an acknowledged enemy (if such be possible) must admit to be free from all suspicion of cant or hypocrisy. The tedious dismissal of so large a body of people is enlivened by a voluntary from the great organ.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A Paris telegram reports the death of M. Martin Paschoud, the well-known Protestant clergyman.

Senator Sumner was, about a fortnight ago, divorced from his wife, on the ground of desertion, by the Supreme Court of Massachusetts.

It is announced from St. Petersburg that the Shah may be expected in London on the 18th of June.

The pioneer steamer of a new American line between Philadelphia and Liverpool, sailed from the former port on Thursday.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has concluded the discussion of the clauses of the Religious Corporations Bill.

The Empress of Russia has arrived at Rome. Her Majesty was received by the King and the princes. The municipal authorities and the Ministers were also present.

It is stated in a cable despatch that fifteen Modoc warriors, hard pressed by the troops, surrendered with forty-seven squaws and children. Captain Jack holds out with twenty warriors. The cavalry are in pursuit.

It is stated that during his stay in Vienna the Prince of Wales has won golden opinions by his assiduous attention to the duties of his office as chief of the British Commission at the Exhibition. His personal popularity among the Viennese has been warm and universal.

THE JESUITS IN GERMANY.—The Imperial Chancellor has issued a decree announcing that in accordance with the decision of the Federal Council the congregations of the Redemptorists, Lazarists, the Priests of the Holy Ghost, and the Society of the Sacred Heart are considered to be affiliated branches of the Jesuits, and are to dissolve their establishments within six months.

SPAIN.—Senor Orense will be brought forward as President of the Spanish Assembly, Castelar of the Constitutional Committee, and Pi y Margall of the Council of Ministers. The Government have caused it to be notified that none of the Ministers were present at the banquet given to Mr. Bradlaugh, and that nobody who was present had authority to represent them. The Governor of Cuba has notified to the Government that the order of the 24th March last, directing that 8,000 to 10,000 slaves should be set free, has been carried out.

Miscellaneous.

THE CASE OF O'KEEFFE v. CULLEN, in the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench, was not brought to a close till yesterday. The whole of Friday and part of Saturday was occupied with the address of Mr. O'Hagan, for the defendant, who closed his speech by telling the jury that the danger to society at the present

moment was not to be apprehended from the Church or the revival of the jurisdiction of the Pope, but from Communism and Socialism. Mr. Fitzgibbon then proceeded to reply for the plaintiff, and resumed on Monday. The Lord Chief Justice then proceeded to charge the jury, and had not concluded when the court adjourned. Yesterday the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff with one farthing damages.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.—Mr. W. D. Denning, of Bristol, reports that he got a tolerable observation of this phenomena on Monday morning. Clouds occasionally obscured the sun, but the progress of the eclipse could be witnessed at short intervals. There were four groups of spots on the sun, two of which the moon occulted in her passage over the sun's northern limb. No particularly large spot was visible, but there was a rather conspicuous group on the east limb. The irregular outline of that part of the moon's border projected on the solar surface was strongly marked, and readily distinguishable in one of Solomon's 3in. refractors with a low magnifying power. At about the time of greatest obscuration there was a slight retrogressive movement of the thermometer.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA are issuing new stock to the extent of seven and a half millions sterling, so as to put their line in a perfect state of efficiency, effect a large annual saving in the working charges, and increase the rolling stock, which is at present stated to be "totally unable to cope with the enormous traffic." The opening of the International Bridge across the Niagara river, which is expected in August next, and of a further section of the Intercolonial Railway in the following month, are likewise relied upon greatly to increase the traffic. The subscription list closes on Friday next for London, and on Saturday next for the country. The price of the stock is quoted 1½ to 1¾ premium.

NEW STEAM COAL COMPANY.—The prospectus is issued of the Cardiff and Swansea Smokeless Steam Company (Limited); capital, 400,000*l.*, in 40,000 shares of 10*l.* each, of which 26,674 are now offered for public subscription. The company is formed to purchase and develop, "upon a scale commensurate with their capacity," several well-known South Wales steam coal properties, which have an area of over 4,700 acres, held for long terms at moderate rents merging into low royalties. The estimated yield of fuel, and the prospects of the company, are fully dealt with in the advertisement elsewhere. In a published letter, Sir R. Carden, the Chairman, says that "the whole of the purchase money, as well as 70,000*l.* of the capital, is taken by the vendors in paid-up shares and debentures, and that, further, the paid-up shares will not be entitled to any dividends for the first three years, until at least 10 per cent. per annum has been paid to the other shareholders."

MR. DISRAELI AND THE ELECTORAL DISABILITIES OF WOMEN.—The following acknowledgment has been received from Mr. Disraeli of the memorial addressed to him by women on the subject of the "Women's Disabilities Bill." The memorial was signed by 11,500 women (9,000 of England and Ireland, and 2,500 of Scotland) and was headed by Miss Nightingale, Miss Martineau, Lady Anna Gore Langton, Lady Amberley, Mrs. P. A. Taylor, Mrs. Butler, Miss Cobbe, Mrs. M'Laren, &c. :—"Dear Gore Langton,—I was much honoured by receiving from your hands the memorial signed by 9,000 women of England, among them some illustrious names, thanking me for my services in attempting to abolish the anomaly that the Parliamentary franchise attached to a household or property qualification when possessed by a woman should not be exercised, though in all matters of local government when similarly qualified she enjoys this right. As I believe this anomaly injurious to the best interests of the country, I trust to see it removed by the wisdom of Parliament.—Yours sincerely, B. DISRAELI."

OPENING OF BETHNAL-GREEN MUSEUM ON SUNDAYS.—A deputation, among whom were several ladies, had an interview with Lord Ripon on Saturday, to ask the Government to open the Bethnal-green Museum on Sunday. The deputation was introduced by Sir Robert Torrens, M.P. It was stated that letters had been received from a number of members of Parliament approving of the proposal, and a memorial in its favour was presented, signed by upwards of 200 ministers of religion, including Dean Stanley, the Rev. W. Rogers, the Rev. Dr. Littledale, the Rev. J. Rodwell, and the Rev. James Martineau. One or two of the female members of the deputation spoke. Lord Ripon said it would not be proper for him to give an answer to the deputation; for the question was to be brought before the House of Commons, and under those circumstances it would be the duty of the Government to take into consideration the course they should adopt. He would lay before his colleagues what had been said, and the facts which had been placed before him, and it would be for the Government to see what course they would take.

THE TRIAL OF THE CLAIMANT has been proceeding during the week in the Court of Queen's Bench. Amongst the witnesses examined for the prosecution has been Doña Hayley; Mrs. Jury—a connection of the Ortons by marriage; Mr. William Hopwood, farmer, of Mount Pleasant, Victoria; Mr. Walter Miller, an Australian attorney; and Mr. Gibbes, who is also a lawyer in the colony, and who was prominently instrumental in bringing forward the supposed Sir Roger. On Monday the Lord Chief Justice stated, in answer to inquiries which had been made of the judges by letter, that

so long as nothing was done to prejudice the verdict of the jury, there could be no objection to any assistance being rendered to the Claimant for the purposes of his defence. The Claimant then asked whether it would be considered a contempt of court if he appeared during the ensuing Whitsun holidays at several theatres, the managers of which had agreed to give him large sums of money merely to read the answer to his petition to the Lords of the Treasury for granting the expenses of his witnesses. The bench, however, declined to express any opinion upon this application. The principal witness called during the day was Miss Mary Ann Loder, with whom Arthur Orton had kept company twenty years ago. She stated that the defendant was the same man who was accustomed to walk with her. She saw him in 1867 at his residence, Wellesley Villas, Croydon, and in 1868 at Winchester, on the occasion of the Dowager Lady Tichborne's funeral. When he was under examination during the civil trial two years ago, she heard him speak, and recognised the voice of Arthur Orton. She had not the slightest doubt of his identity; if she had, he should have had the benefit of it. Other witnesses from Wapping having been called, the court adjourned.

HERR DOBLER'S ENTERTAINMENT.—"Herr Dobler, the wizard of the world," who is about to give a series of performances at the Alexandra Palace, gave a preliminary entertainment on Monday afternoon to a select company in the Lower-room, Exeter Hall. In the course of his introductory remarks, he referred to the doings of the notorious brothers Davenport, and undertook to produce by pure jugglery all the effects which those wofthies had ascribed to spiritual agency. Not being able to boast of any intimate acquaintance with the achievements of either wizards, jugglers or spiritualists, we may freely confess to some bewilderment at those of Herr Dobler. Two gentlemen having been selected by the company to examine and report on the preparations for the successive tricks, and taken their seats on the platform, a coil of several yards of cord was brought in, and the performer having seated himself on a wooden chair, the room was darkened for two minutes, and then lighted again, when he was found firmly secured to the chair by several strands of cord, and his hands so tightly bound together behind him, that the examiners admitted that it was impossible to insert a penknife between them. While he continued in that position, the room was again darkened, and a bell and tambourine (the latter touched with phosphorus) which had been placed on a neighbouring table, began to float in the air, and to play; at any rate the phosphorus was visible, and the music audible, and before light was restored, both instruments had fallen violently to the floor. An overcoat having been borrowed from a spectator, and laid on the table, it was found in a moment on Herr Dobler's back and arms (still secured as before), and in another it had flown back to its owner. One of the examiners then sat close in front of the "wizard," and he confessed to the pulling of his hair and beard, and the striking of his head as by several hands at once. A lady's muff was then brought in and placed on the knee of one of the examiners, who sat near Herr Dobler, and in a trice it appeared on the left arm of the latter, his wrists being still bound together behind the chair, and in another instant the muff was on the arm of the other examiner. The performer's last feat was to extricate himself from the cord, his hands having, to add to the mystery of the process, been first filled with flour, which he still retained when free. How these deeds of darkness were accomplished, we were ourselves at a loss to conjecture, and can only advise any of our readers who may feel curious on the subject to go and discover, if they can, for themselves.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

BIRTH.

GOADBY—May 23, at Bluntisham, the wife of Rev. F. W. Goadby, M.A., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

APPLETON—SHERWIN.—May 21, at the Downs Chapel, Clapton, by the Rev. W. Tyler, assisted by the Rev. T. Vincent Tyms, Henry Morten, elder son of Henry Appleton, M.D., to Emily, elder daughter of the late John G. Sherwin.

BENHAM—ADNAMS.—May 21, at the Congregational Church, Wanstead, by the Rev. William Brock, D.D., Henry James, eldest son of Mr. James Benham, of 50, Wigmore-street, W., to Eleanor Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. George Adnams, of Witham, Essex.

DEATHS.

GAYFER—May 17, at Linton, Cambs, Martha Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Thomas Gayfer, formerly of Clare, Suffolk, aged 68 years.

DOULTON—May 21, at his residence, Springwell, Clapham Common, John Doulton, Esq., of Lambeth, in his 80th year.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This most celebrated and delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the Red Seal, Pink label, and Cork branded "Kinahan's LL" whisky. Wholesale, 20, Great Titchfield st., Oxford-st., W.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, May 26.

The supplies of English wheat on sale this morning was small; from abroad arrivals are of moderate extent. We had a steady, but not an active market. The best samples of English wheat realised the prices of Monday last, inferior parcels remained on hand. Of foreign wheat ex granary sales proceeded in retail at former prices. For American ex ship 6d. to 1s. per qr. decline was accepted. Flour was without alteration. Peas and beans sold slowly at former quotations. Barley was steady in value. Indian corn was 6d. per qr. lower to sell. Of Oats we have fair supplies. They met a good demand, and prices were well maintained. At the ports of call arrivals are small. Prices of cargoes are in favour of buyers.

DREAD, Wednesday, May 26.—The prices in the Metropolitan are, for Wheaten Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d. Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, May 26.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week consisted of 9,997 head. In the corresponding week in 1872 we received 14,295; in 1871, 23,959; in 1870, 12,220; in 1869, 13,727; and in 1868, 3,838 head. The cattle trade to-day has been without features of importance. The supplies of stock have been tolerably good, and about equal requirement. From our own grazing districts the receipts of beasts have been moderate, and quality has been satisfactory. Although not active the trade has ruled firm, and prices have had a hardening tendency. The best Scots and crosses have made 6s. 4d. to 6s. 6d. per 8lbs. Among the sheep receipts have been 350 from Gothenburg, 98 Christiansa, 162 Dutch, 164 Oporto, and 160 Cornuana. The trade for them has ruled firm, and extreme rates have been obtained. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridge we received about 1,500, from Lincolnshire 60, other parts of England about 250, and from Ireland 100. The sheep market has been depressed. Heavy receipts have come to hand from abroad, and there has been at the same time a fair show from our own grazing districts. The demand has been inactive, and the large supplies offering have had a tendency to weaken prices. Our top quotation of 6s. 4d. is quite exceptional, 6s. 2d. per 8lbs. being mostly taken for the best Downs. Lambs have been dull and lower, at 7s. 4d. to 8s. 4d. Calves have been quiet on former terms. Pigs have sold at late rates. At Deptford there have been 303 beasts.

Per 8lbs., to sink the offal.							
s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	5	0	5	6	Pr. coarse woolled	5	10
Second quality	5	8	5	10	Prime Southdown	6	2
Prime large oxen	6	2	6	4	Lge. coarse calves	5	0
Prime Scots	6	4	6	6	Prime small	6	0
Coarse inf. sheep	4	10	5	6	Large hogs	3	10
Second quality	5	6	5	8	Neat sm. porkers	4	8
					Lamb, 7s. 4d. to 8s. 4d.		

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, May 26.—A rather small supply of meat has been on sale here to-day. Transactions were moderate, at the quotations annexed.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.							
s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	4	4	0	Inferior Mutton	4	4
Middling do.	4	4	5	0	Middling do.	5	0
Prime large do.	5	4	5	10	Prime do.	5	8
Prime small do.	5	6	6	0	Large pork	4	0
Veal	5	0	5	8	Small do.	5	0
					Lamb	6	8

PROVISIONS, Monday, May 26.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 324 firkins butter, and 2,893 bales

bacon; and from foreign ports 29,996 packages butter, and 1,841 bales and 1379 boxes bacon. The prices of butter in Ireland are still too high for this market. The supplies of foreign were good, and at the close of the week a further decline of 4s. to 8s. per cwt. was submitted to; best Dutch 100s. to 140s. The bacon market was steady for best Waterford, without change in price; and less pressing to sell Corv, Limerick, &c. The market closed firmer for all descriptions.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, May 26.—The demand for all descriptions of hops continues very limited, and prices in consequence are rendered nominal. Holders, however, are very firm, and show no disposition to press their stocks. Choice hops, from their scarcity, command full rates. Reports from the plantations state the "bine" to be very backward and weak, and to have made no progress. Continental markets are unaltered. Advices from New York quota prices firm, with little business doing. Mid and East Kent, 5l. 0s., 5l. 5s. to 6l. 6s.; Weald of Kent, 5l. 0s., 5l. 5s. to 6l. 0s.; Sussex, 5l. 0s., 5l. 5s., to 5l. 15s.; Farnham and country, 5l. 12s. to 7l.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, May 26.—The supplies of English potatoes, more particularly those of flukes, are short, and the rates generally are not supported. Foreign potatoes, however, are more readily dealt in, and realise higher prices. Best Kent and Essex Regents, 180s. to 240s. per ton; Ditto secondary, 150s. to 180s.; Rocks, 110s. to 140s.

SEED, Monday, May 26.—Very little business is now passing in any description of cloverseed, and prices are nominal for all samples of red. There are a few buyers for fine qualities of trefoil to hold over, but low rates are paid. Stocks are very moderate. Fine white mustardseed sold in small lots, at fully as much money, but there was little passing in brown sorts for want of supplies. Fine English rapeseed was taken off at quite as much money in limited parcels. Canaryseed realised previous values, with a steady demand for foreign parcels, although these were offered at very moderate rates. Large hempseed brought fully as much money, with a steady sale. Foreign tares were purchased slowly, without any quotable change in price.

WOOL, Monday, May 26.—The wool trade has been without feature. English qualities have been in moderate request, and have been steady in value. The public sales of colonial produce are progressing evenly. Australian wool maintain late rates, and Cape are rather better.

OIL, Monday, May 26.—For linseed oil a moderate demand has been experienced, and prices have been steady. Rape has been quiet. Other oils have sold slowly.

TALLOW, Monday, May 26.—The tallow trade is quiet, and P.Y.C. is quoted at 43s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. Town tallow 41s. net cash. Rough fat 2s. per 8lbs.

COAL, Monday, May 26.—No market on Wednesday. Market very firm, buyers inclined to offer for future supplies, factors unwilling to give way. Hettons, 30s.; Hettons Lyons, 28s. 6d.; Haswell, 30s.; Hartlepool, original, 30s.; Lambtons, 29s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 43; ships at sea, 10.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—UNSEEMLY ERUPTIONS.—No means heretofore discovered are so competent to cope with and conquer all blemishes, boils, eruptions, redness, and roughness of the skin, as these celebrated medicaments, which are valued wherever they are known. Holloway's remedies cool the system, regulate the circulation, and so thoroughly purify the whole body, that whatever is hurtful must inevitably be swept away, and be succeeded by healthy structure, which is derived from rich and pure blood. The cosmetic virtues of this unguent have been long appreciated; no toilet-table is well appointed which lacks its presence; it soothes and cleanses the most fine and tender skins, and when assisted by Holloway's Pills, is the most valuable beautifier.

Advertisements.

MILL HILL SCHOOL.

THOMAS HUGHES, Esq., M.P., has kindly consented to preside on NEW FOUNDATION DAY, WEDNESDAY, 11th June, 1873. Luncheon at 2.30. Distribution of Prizes at 5 o'clock.

Fuller Particulars on application to the Secretary, Mill Hill School, N.W.

A LADY wishes to RECOMMEND her GOVERNESS, who has passed two Cambridge Examinations, and is thoroughly competent to teach English, Music, Drawing, and French, with rudimentary German.—Address, R., Albert House, Marlborough, Wilts.

A GERMAN PROTESTANT LADY, who has had great experience in teaching English Pupils, wishes to receive YOUNG LADIES in August, at Bibrich on the Rhine, near Wiesbaden. Terms and references on application to Fräulein Korbach, Villa Schweiz, Nachrodt bei dem Grüne, Westphalia.

NEW HOMES in AMERICA.—There are a Number of Farms for Sale in the best Sections of Virginia, varying in price from 12s. per acre, which are as beautiful, productive, and homelike as any in England. For papers and all information address the Foreign and Colonial Estates Exchange Agency, 34, New Bridge-street, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

TO LADIES.—The SHOWROOM of a COSTUME WAREHOUSE has opened on a new principle. The NEWEST FASHIONS in COSTUMES, Skirts, Polonaises, Lace, and Fancy Goods, Millinery, Bonnets, and Hats, with Children's Dresses in great variety. Every article Wholesale price, marked plain figures. Ladies are invited to make an early inspection of the Millinery Department. Open Ten to Six.—24, Cursitor-street, Holborn, near the Baptist Mission House.

W. F. THOMAS & CO.'S

Domestic Hand Machines (noiseless)	£2 15 0
Ditto Shuttle (Lock Stitch) strongly recommended	4 4 0
Ditto on Stand, complete, to work by hand or foot	6 0 0

Catalogues and Samples post free.

1 AND 2, CHEAPSIDE; AND OXFORD CIRCUS, LONDON.

Patronised by the CROWN PRINCESS of PRUSSIA, the SULTAN of TURKEY, and the NAWAB NAZIM of BENGAL.

SEWING MACHINES,

From £2 2s. to £25.
The only Establishments in London where the opportunity is afforded of inspecting and comparing every description of

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It is absurdly claimed for almost every Sewing Machine, whatever description, that it is superior to all others, for all purposes.

SMITH and CO., having no interest in selling any particular Machine, are enabled to recommend impartially the one best suited for the work to be done, and offer this GUARANTEE to their Customers:—Any Machine sold by them may be EXCHANGED after one month's trial, for any other kind, without charge for use.

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STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEKCHES' GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals—The Misses HOWARD.
HALF TERM will begin MONDAY, June 16.

LADIES' COLLEGE, HILL HOUSE, GREAT MALVERN.

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SEWING MACHINES

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PRIZE MEDALS:—Paris, 1855; London, 1862; Paris, 1867.

Easy Terms of Purchase, when required, without increase of Price.

SEWING MACHINES.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX.

NEW FOUNDATION DAY, WEDNESDAY,
the 11th of JUNE, 1873.

THOMAS HUGHES, Esq., M.P., Author of "Tom Brown's School Days" has kindly consented to preside, and The Rev. HENRY ALLON, D.D., to act as Vice-President.

PROGRAMME OF PROCEEDINGS.

Ten o'clock.—Cricket Match between First Eleven and Second Eleven, the latter supplemented by Visitors.
One o'clock.—The Boys' Dinner, in a Marquee erected in the Playfield.

Half-past Two.—Luncheon in the Dining Hall.

At Half-past Four the New Organ will be opened by WALLIS NASH, Esq., and Messrs. NIEDERHEITMANN and PAYNE.

Five o'clock.—Brief Report by the Head-Master, R. F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit., M.A., and Distribution of Prizes and Certificates in the Chapel by THOMAS HUGHES, Esq., M.P. (The Prizes, as well as Drawings, Botanical Collections, Specimens of Writing, &c., will be on view all day in the Chapel until Four o'clock.)

Six o'clock.—Tea and coffee.

In the Evening.—Choral Music in the Chapel, and various games—bowls, croquet, quoits, &c.—on the Lawn and in the Playfield.

Omnibuses will meet all trains arriving at and departing from the Great Northern Station, Mill-hill, between Noon and Ten P.M.

N.B.—Application for Tickets for the luncheon to be addressed to the "Secretary, Mill Hill School, Middlesex, N.W.," not later than Wednesday, the 4th June. Gentlemen, Seven Shillings and Sixpence; Ladies, Five Shillings. Tickets to be produced on entering the Hall.

ROBERT H. MARTEN, B.A., Secretary.

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM, LONDON.

PRINCIPALS—Mrs. TODD and Rev. J. W. TODD, D.D.

PROFESSORS.

English Literature ...	Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR.
Botany ...	Prof. BENTLEY, King's Coll.
French Language ...	Dr. MANDROU.
German Language ...	Dr. GERNER.
Italian Language ...	Signor SUINO.
English History ...	Dr. KEMSHEAD, Dulwich Col.
Globes and Natural Science	E. H. WEST, M.A.
Physical Geography ...	Mr. JONES, F.R.G.S., F.G.S.
Music—Theory, &c. ...	JOHN BLOCKLEY, Esq.
Piano and Harmonium ...	Herr LOUIS DIEHL.
Singing and Organ ...	H. W. MONK, Esq., King's Col.
Drawing and Painting ...	R. W. BUSS, Esq.
Geology and Biblical Studies	Rev. J. W. TODD, D.D., F.G.S.

Terms and Particulars on application.

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ALEXANDER WAUGH YOUNG, Esq., M.A., Lond. (Gold Medalist in Classics); late Andrews' Scholar, and First Prize in Higher Senior Mathematics, of University College, London; Fellow of University College, London.

SECOND MASTER.

JAMES SHAW, Esq., Peel Exhibitioner, Queen's University, Ireland; and First of First Class in Classical Honours at the First B.A. Examination, London University.

ASSISTANT MASTERS.

R. B. CONNELL, Esq., Exhibitioner, Cargill Scholar, and Prize-man of the University of Aberdeen.

A. D. CAMPBELL, Esq., Associate of the Royal College of Preceptors.

HENRY TAYLOR, Esq.

Rev. P. P. ROWE, M.A. London.

HERMANN POMNITZ, Esq., Certificated by the Imperial Prussian Government, and by the University of Paris.

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THOMAS ROBERTS, Esq., Chemistry.

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Applications to Head Master, or to the Hon. Sec., S. DICKINSON, Esq., Wolverhampton.

HYDROPATHY!—JACKSON HOUSE, MATLOCK BANK, DERBYSHIRE.

Resident Proprietors and Managers—Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE BARTON.

The house is replete with every convenience for the full prosecution of the Hydropathic System, and possesses a high character for cleanliness and comfort. Jackson House, from its sheltered position and internal arrangement, is eminently adapted for pursuing the system during the autumn and winter months.

Terms—from 23s. to 30s. per week.

Prospectuses on application.

WIESBADEN.—Villa, No. 8, Park Strasse,

Wiesbaden. EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LADIES.

This Establishment, conducted by Miss MACLEA, and attended by eminent masters, offers a superior German education, combined with all the comforts of a Christian home. References kindly permitted to Charles Henderson, Esq., Royal Terrace, Edinburgh; Rev. James Smith, M.A., Sheffield; Professor Fielding, Rotherham; Rev. E. Codd, Inchbrook Vicarage, Leamington; Arthur Marshall, Esq., Mount Pleasant, Hornsey, London; and to parents of former pupils, on application to Miss Maclea.

36, HILLDROP-ROAD, LONDON, N.

LADIES' SCHOOL, conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by superior English and Foreign Masters.

VICTORIA VILLA, FINCHLEY, N.

ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by Mrs. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY of CANADA.

ISSUE of NEW ORDINARY STOCK.

NOTICE TO BONDHOLDERS.

Holders of Bonds to bearer desirous of applying for an Allotment of the New Ordinary Stock, now being issued, can obtain SPECIAL FORMS of APPLICATION on applying at the offices of the Company.

RICHARD POTTER, President.

JOHN M. GRANT, Secretary.

Grand Trunk Railway Offices, 21, Old Broad-street, E.C.
London, May 23, 1873.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY of CANADA.

ISSUE of £7,500,000 NEW ORDINARY STOCK, part of £10,000,000 Stock, authorised by the Act of Parliament passed May 3, 1873. The balance, viz., £2,500,000, being reserved to be issued at the discretion of the directors, but not sooner than January 1, 1875.

DIRECTORS.

RICHARD POTTER, Esq., Standish House, Gloucester, President.

Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P., Bishopsgate-street, E.C., London.

Charles John Brydges, Esq., Montreal.

Hon. James Ferrier, Montreal.

Robert Gillespie, Esq., 55, Onslow-square, S.W., London.

Kirkman Daniel Hodgson, Esq., M.P., Bishopsgate-street, E.C., London.

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John Swift, Esq., 23, Great Cumberland-place, W., London.

Captain Tyler, Wyvenhoe Hall, near Colchester.

Right Hon. Lord Wolverton, 67, Lombard-street, E.C., London.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard-street, E.C., London.

SOLICITOR.

J. Brend Batten, Esq., Great George-street, Westminster.

SECRETARY.

John M. Grant, Esq.

Offices—21, Old Broad-street, E.C., London.

Price of issue £22 10s. per £100 stock, payable as follows:—

£5 per £100 stock, payable on application.	
5 " " " allotment.	
2 " " " January 1, 1874.	
2 " " " April 1, 1874.	
3 " " " July 1, 1874.	
3 " " " October 1, 1874.	
2 10s. " " January 1, 1875.	
£22 10s.	

The Directors of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada are prepared to RECEIVE APPLICATIONS for the above £7,500,000 stock, part of £10,000,000 stock, authorised to be created at a general meeting of the shareholders held 20th March, 1873, and in conformity with a special Act of Parliament passed 3rd May, 1873.

The proceeds of the stock now offered will be amply sufficient to defray the cost of the conversion of gauge and other improvements of the line up to 31st December, 1874.

The directors have arranged to retain for the Company the remaining £2,500,000 stock, which will not be issued before 1st January, 1875, by which time it is expected the position of the undertaking will have so greatly improved as to justify a considerably higher price than the stock now for subscription.

The stock now to be issued will rank for dividend in common with the existing ordinary stock of the Company.

By the provisions of the Company's Act of Parliament, the net revenue of the Company, after paying preference charges, is to "be applied in payment of a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock."

The surplus profits, after payment of such dividends, are to be apportioned—In payment of a further 1 per cent. to the preference stocks, and of a further dividend of 2 per cent. to the ordinary stock, making a total of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock.

The payment of 3 per cent. dividend on the stock now offered for subscription would be equal to 13½ per cent., and a dividend of 5 per cent. would be equal to 22 per cent. on the price of subscription.

The object of the present issue is to carry out the plan of reorganisation sanctioned by the shareholders, by which the railway will be put in a position to develop the traffic existing on the line, and to bring the undertaking into first-class working order.

It is provided by the Company's Act of Parliament that—"The Grand Trunk Company shall from time to time give satisfactory evidence to the Governor in Council of the expenditure of the proceeds of the share capital authorised to be raised, which shall be made in the improvement of and addition to the rolling stock, in the changing of the gauge to 4 feet 8½ inches, the substitution of steel for iron rails, and the providing of additional facilities for the carrying on of the business of the country."

By the expenditure of the proceeds of the issue of the present stock a large increase in the traffic must ensue, and also a great diminution in the working expenses, and the following is a summary of the advantageous results which will be obtained by the Company, and which will mainly benefit the ordinary stock.

1. By the substitution of steel rails for iron, the constant breakages and consequent expense will be avoided, estimated by the president as equal to from £250,000 to £300,000 per annum in the locomotive, permanent way, and traffic departments.

2. The gauge, which at present is partly broad gauge and partly narrow gauge, will be altered in sections to one uniform gauge, thus saving delay, expense, and damage from the constant shifting of the traffic, and utilising the rolling stock resources of the railway connections, south and west.

3. The Buffalo International Bridge across the Niagara River is confidently expected to be opened in August next, and all the cost of transshipping the goods by ferry will be avoided.

4. A further section of the Intercolonial Railway will be opened by September next.

5. A reduction of interest on the prior charges of upwards of £130,000 per annum, until a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum is paid on the ordinary capital.

6. The increase of rolling stock, which at present is totally unable to cope with the traffic on the line.

7. A decrease of the working charges and maintenance of the line, from the above improvements to a normal rate.

8. The direct communication with the American railways,

by reason of this Company's line being altered to the same gauge, resulting in a solid addition to the business of the Company.

In spite of the disadvantages under which the Company has hitherto laboured of being unable to carry the existing traffic, a steady increase has taken place year by year, the receipts having increased during the last ten years about 100 per cent., the traffic of last year approaching Two Millions Sterling.

The Traffic receipts for the last three years show the following results:—

1870.....	£1,498,307
1871.....	1,711,223
1872.....	1,836,057

Showing an increase in the two years of about 23 per cent., and when the whole of the improvements contemplated are carried out there cannot be a question that the rate of increase will proceed even at a much greater ratio.

That this expectation is well founded may be seen by a consideration of the great increase in the prosperity of Canada during the last few years. In the five years which have elapsed since the Confederation the deposits in the banks of the country have increased from 25 to 59 millions, or nearly 130 per cent.

The growth of the home and foreign trade of the country has been not less satisfactory. In the whole of the year 1868 the exports of Canada were 57 millions, while in the first half of the present financial year they were 58 millions.

The imports, which five years since were 71 millions for the 12 months, are now 72 millions for the 6 months of the current fiscal year.

A country which in such a short period has doubled its home and foreign trade must command confidence in its present resources and faith in its future development.

The remarks of the Hon. Mr. Tilley, the Minister of Finance for Canada, upon this subject point clearly to a great future for the Dominion of Canada, in which, of course, the Grand Trunk Railway must necessarily participate. In the course of his Budget speech, delivered at Ottawa in April last, he said:—"We can bear an increased debt of 30 millions in the next 10 years without materially increasing the taxation of the people, while at the same time we are opening up a magnificent country for the millions who will pour into it, and are increasing the strength and power of the Dominion, and making it what I trust it will ever continue to be—the strong right arm of our own British Empire."

The mileage of the railway is 1,377 miles, and some idea will be formed of the extent of the Company's business when it is added that, notwithstanding the rolling stock on 31st December last consisted of 361 locomotive engines, 340 passenger carriages, and 6,769 freight cars, it was unable to cope with the large amount of traffic offered for conveyance.

Finally, the Directors, whilst not wishing to appear to exaggerate the value of the stock now offered for subscription, do not hesitate to express their opinion that so soon as the traffic organisation on the line and the contemplated improvements are completed, the undertaking and its stocks will be placed upon an entirely new footing.

The allotment will be made on the following basis:—£5,500,000 stock is appropriated rateably to the holders of the existing ordinary and preference stocks registered in the books of the Company on the 23rd May, 1873, in the proportion of £50 new stock for each £100 stock held by them.

Stockholders desiring to subscribe for a larger amount of stock than their pro rata allotment may make application on the enclosed form, which will receive a priority in the appropriation of any balance not taken by the allottees.

The remaining £2,000,000 stock, with the balance (if any) not taken up by the proprietors, will be allotted among applicants who are bondholders not registered in the books of the Company, and to the public.

Failure to pay any instalment at the due date will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

In the event of no allotment being made, the deposit paid will be returned without deduction; and should a smaller amount of stock be allotted than that applied for, the surplus of the deposit money will be appropriated to the payment due on allotment.

Provisional certificates will be issued, to be exchanged when fully paid up for the ordinary stock certificates of the Company, the stock being registered in the name of the holder free of expense.

Application will be made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange, at the earliest possible date, for an official quotation of the stock now offered for subscription.

Applications, which must be accompanied by the amount payable thereon, must be sent to the bankers of the Company, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard-street, E.C., London.

Forms of subscription may be obtained at the offices of the Company, 21, Old Broad-street, E.C., London, and of all London stockbrokers.

RICHARD POTTER, President.

JOHN M. GRANT, Secretary.

Grand Trunk Railway Offices:
21, Old Broad-street, E.C., London, May 23, 1873.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY COMPANY OF CANADA.

Issue of £7,500,000 New Ordinary Stock at £22 10s. per £100 Stock.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

(To be retained by the Bankers.)

To the Directors of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., the sum of £ being £5 per cent. on an application for £ New Ordinary Stock of the Company, I request you to allot me that amount of stock; and I hereby agree to accept the same or any smaller amount that may be allotted to me, and to pay the balance due thereon, according to the terms of your circular, dated 23rd May, 1873.

Name (in full)

Address

Profession (if any)

Date

Signature

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA.

ISSUE of £7,500,000 NEW ORDINARY STOCK.

CLOSING OF THE SUBSCRIPTION LISTS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the SUBSCRIPTION LISTS for the above will be CLOSED on FRIDAY next, the 30th inst., for London, and on SATURDAY next, the 31st inst., for Country Applications.

RICHARD POTTER, President.

JOHN M. GRANT, Secretary.

Grand Trunk Railway Offices, 21, Old Broad Street, E.C., London, 28th May, 1873.

THE CARDIFF and SWANSEA SMOKELESS STEAM COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 and 1867.

CAPITAL, £400,000, in £40,000 Shares of £10 each, Of which 26,674 are now offered for public subscription. £1 payable on application; £2 on allotment; £1 on October 1st, 1873; and the remaining £6 as required, in Calls of £1 per Share, at intervals of not less than three months.

It is intended to declare the first Dividend in August next. No cash payment is made to the Vendors, all the purchase-money being paid in Shares and Debentures; and for the first three years the Vendors' Shares only participate in Dividends after a minimum Dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum has been paid to the other Shareholders.

DIRECTORS.

Alderman Sir Robert Walter Carden, Royal Exchange-buildings, London.
Richard Shaw, Esq., M.P., Queen's-gate, W., and Holme Lodge, Burnley, Lancashire.
Thomas Coats, Esq. (J. and P. Coats, Paisley), Ferguslie House, Renfrewshire.
J. Davenport Shakespear, Esq., J.P. for Essex, F.G.S., Ramsgate and London.
John Cory, Esq. (Cory Brothers and Co., Cardiff and London), Finchley House, Cardiff.
F. A. Yeo, Esq. (Cory, Yeo, and Co.), Director of the Swansea Bank, Sketty Hall, Swansea.
(With power to add to their number.)

BANKERS.

Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, Lombard-street, London National Provincial Bank of England, London and Branches. The Swansea Bank, Limited, Swansea.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Sharp and Turner, 31 and 32, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
Messrs. Ingledew, Ince, and Vachell, Cardiff.
Washington H. Brown, Esq., Swansea.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co., George-street, Mansion House, London, E.C.

SECRETARY, pro tem.

John Russell Clipperton, Esq.

OFFICES, pro tem.

2, Royal Exchange-buildings, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing and developing, upon a scale commensurate with their capacity, the well-known South Wales Steam Coal Properties called the PENTRE and CHURCH COLLIERIES, situated in the Rhondda Valley, on the Taff Vale Railway, and within twenty-one miles of the Port of Cardiff; and the RESOLVEN COLLIERIES in the Neath Valley on the Great Western Railway, eight miles from the Port of Briton Ferry, and thirteen miles from Swansea.

The combined properties constitute one of the largest and richest coal-fields in South Wales, and comprise an area of over 4,700 acres, held for unexpired terms of 42, 43, and 98 years, at moderate rents merging into the following exceptionally low royalties:—8d. per ton on large coals, and 4d. per ton upon small, under the Pentre and Church leases; and 6d. and 3d. under the Resolven lease.

As detailed in the Engineers' reports, the quantity of Coal in these takings are estimated at the enormous total of 115 million tons, which will be equal to a daily output of upwards of 4,000 tons for the term of the longest of the leases; and in the latter is included more than three-fourths of the entire property.

During the four months ending April 30th last, the average output, calculating 260 working days in the year, exceeded 550 tons per day, and the present selling price leaves a profit at the rate of upwards of £70,000 per annum, being equal to more than 25 per cent. per annum upon the amount of the purchase, including the Vendors' shares.

The further development of these important properties will include the completion of the large double-bonded shaft now in course of sinking at Pentre; the sinking of two pairs of pits to the lower measures, and the opening out, on a more extended scale, of the upper workings at Resolven; the extension of siding accommodation; and the erection of a number of additional workmen's cottages. For all these purposes it is estimated that an outlay of about £90,000 will be required.

It will be seen from the Engineers' reports that the quantity raised can be soon largely increased, and that when the above works are completed, the output may be calculated at a daily average of at least 2,600 tons. Taking a minimum profit of only 3s. per ton on that quantity, the net return would be £101,400 per annum, or over 25 per cent. upon the total nominal capital of the Company. But should prices continue as at present, the profits, it is evident, will be very largely in excess of this estimate.

The purchase of the above-mentioned Collieries, with all buildings, workmen's cottages, engines, boilers, weighing houses, machinery, horses, railway sidings, and all other plant, has been agreed upon for the sum of £285,000; and the vendors, as a proof of their confidence in the value of the property, have agreed to receive the purchase-money as follows:—£133,260 in paid-up shares, and the balance of £151,740 in debentures carrying 6 per cent interest, and extending over periods of three, four, and five years.

In addition to receiving the whole of their purchase-money as above mentioned in paid-up shares and debentures of the Company, the vendors have further agreed that for the first three years their paid-up shares shall not participate in profits until after dividends of 10 per cent. per annum have been paid to the other Shareholders.

One important feature in connection with the undertaking is that the Collieries are to be transferred free of all contracts, and the Company will, therefore, have the full benefit of the prevailing high prices, and it is agreed that the Company takes the profits arising from the working as from the 30th April, 1873.

The annexed Reports by the eminent Engineers, William Adams, Esq., of Cardiff; David Llewellyn, Esq., of Pontypool; and E. Daniel, Esq., of Swansea, show the great value and exceptionally favourable character of the properties, and the practically inexhaustible supply of Coal contained in them. The reports of these gentlemen are also fully confirmed by a subsequent valuation made by Lewis T. Lewis, Esq., F.G.S. Neath.

The only Contracts are as follows, namely:—(1.) Agreement, dated the 21st day of May, 1873, made between Thomas Cory and Frank Ash Yeo of the one part, and John Davenport Shakespear, as nominee for the Company, of the other part. (2.) Agreement, dated the 21st day of May 1873, made between John Cory and Richard Cory, junior, of the one part, and John Davenport Shakespear, as nominee for the Company, of the other part. (3.) Agreement, dated

the 21st day of May, 1873, and made between Henry Russell Evans of the one part, and John Davenport Shakespear, as nominee of the Company, of the other part.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of the Company; of the Bankers; the Solicitors; and of the Brokers, Sir Robert Carden and Co., 2, Royal Exchange-buildings, London, E.C.

The Contracts, Reports, Memorandum, and Articles of Association may be seen at the Company's Offices, and also at the offices of the Company's Solicitors.

If no allotment of Shares is made, the deposit will be returned in full.

FARM LANDS FOR SALE in the UNITED STATES.

The Burlington and Missouri-River Railroad Company offers for Sale, at a Low Price, on Four, Six, or Ten Years' Credit, with interest at favourable rates, and in quantities to suit purchasers, its Lands in the great Agricultural States of IOWA AND NEBRASKA,

eligibly situated on the Chicago and Burlington Railway route between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Full information in reference to the character and cost of these Lands, and to the Rates of Passage by Steamship and Railway to the Western and Pacific States, by the above-named route, may be had on application by letter or in person, at any of the offices of the Company in the United Kingdom; also, a Handbook for the use of intending Emigrants.

Liverpool: 16, South Castle-street.

London: 25, Moorgate-street.

HAMILTON A. HILL, General Agent.

THE LONDON AND GENERAL PERMANENT LAND, BUILDING, AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

Shares, £40. Monthly Subscription, 5s. Entrance Fee 1s. per Share.

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Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

The Hon. H. F. Cowper, M.P.

CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

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Expenses of Management under 3 per cent.

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STATIONERY, PRINTING, ACCOUNT BOOKS, and every requisite for the Counting-house. Qualities and prices will compare advantageously with any house in the trade. The Forms and Account Books required under "The Companies' Acts, 1862 and 1867," kept in stock. Share Certificates Engraved and Printed. Official Seals Designed and Executed.—ASH and FLINT, 49, Fleet-street, City, E.C., and opposite the Railway Stations, London-bridge, S.E.

G. SULLY'S PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL BOARDING HOUSE and FAMILY HOTEL, 23, EUSTON-road, KING'S CROSS (Corner of Belgrave-street), LONDON. Opposite the Midland and Great Northern, and close to the London, and North-Western Termini; also the King's Cross Station of the Metropolitan Railway. Beds from 1s. 6d. Breakfast or Tea 1s. 3d. Attendance 9d. Trains and omnibuses to all parts of the City continually.

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NOTICE.**MESSRS. HOTTOT-BOUDAULT**

have made a new arrangement with Messrs. P. and P. W. SQUIRE, 277, Oxford-street, so that they can supply that valuable digestive agent, BOUDAULT'S PEPSINE, at the same price as charged by the manufacturers in Paris.

BOUDAULT'S PEPSINE.

The only one supplied to the Hospitals of Paris since 1854. Prize of the French Institute, 1856; Sole Medal Paris Exhibition, 1867; Silver Medal, 1868; Gold Medalion, 1872.

Powder 5s. Wine 4s. and 8s. Pills 3s. Lozenges 5s.

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HALL & SONS Pannus Corium Boots give immediate relief to tender feet. Never drawing, or causing the least pain to corns, bunions, or other tenderness the feet are subject to.

Their appearance is that of the Finest Calf, and are as Durable and Cheap as ordinary boots.

Bordeaux Calf, Glove Kid, and every other description of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Boots in great variety.

HALL & SON, 54, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.; and 5, Stoke Newington-road, N.

FACT.—ALEX. ROSS'S HAIR-COLOUR WASH will in two days cause grey hair or whiskers to become their original colour. This is guaranteed by Alex. Ross. It is merely necessary to damp the hair with it. Price 10s. 6d.; sent for stamps.—243, High Holborn, London.

SPANISH FLY is the acting ingredient in Alex. Ross's CANTHARIDES OIL. It is a sure restorer of Hair and a producer of Whiskers. The effect is speedy. It is patronised by Royalty. The price is 3s. 6d.; sent for stamps.

ALEX. ROSS'S HAIR CURLING FLUID.—It curls immediately straight and ungovernable Hair. It is of no consequence how straight or ungovernable the hair is when it is used. Sold at 3s. 6d.; sent for 54 stamps.

ALEX. ROSS'S GREAT HAIR RESTORER.—It restores Grey Hair to its original colour in a few days. It increases growth and removes dandruff. Sold in large bottles at 3s. 6d.; sent for stamps or P. O. Order.—ALEX. ROSS, 243, High Holborn, London.

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Business, Morning, and Travelling.	Visiting, Frock, and Clerical.	Boys and Youths.	CLASS.	Business, Morning, and Travelling.	Visiting, Frock, and Clerical.	Spring Overcoats.	
36s.	43s. 6d.	16s.	A	17s. 6d.	25s.	21s.	
42s.	49s.	20s.	B	21s.	28s.	23s.	
50s.	57s.	24s.	C	26s.	33s.	33s.	
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75s.	83s.	31s.	E	42s.	50s.	50s.	
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94s.	104s.	39s.	G	55s.	65s.	—	
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THE NEW "WEAR-RESISTING" FABRICS are manufactured in every style of Juvenile Costume. Suit for a Boy four feet in height, C class, 25s. Suit for a Boy four feet in height, D class, 30s. 6d. Price ascending or descending according to size.

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A quantity of good second-hand Government Tents for sale, cheap.

Sample of material free on application.

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John Bennett's Gold Presentation Watches, 20 guineas, 30 guineas, 40 guineas.

John Bennett's ladies' gold keyless watches, from 10 guineas.

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In return for a £10 note, free and safe, per post, one of Bennett's lady's gold watches, perfect for time, beauty, and workmanship, with keyless action, air-tight, and damp-tight. Gold chains at manufacturer's prices, post-office order.—John Bennett, 65 and 64, Cheapside.

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The Ninth Annual Meeting of Governors was held on Thursday, May 22, 1873, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, for the ELECTION of TWELVE INFANTS, two of whom to be retained until sixteen years of age; THOMAS WHITE, Esq., Alderman and Sheriff, in the chair.

At the close of the ballot the following were declared to be SUCCESSFUL:—

Elected to continue until sixteen years of age.	
1. Brawn, Amy	731
2. Couzens, Ada E.	416
Elected to continue until nine years of age.	
3. Ingrey, Arthur Ewd.	799
4. Nortier, Sydney	642
5. Fairchild, George A.	627
6. Bickley, William E.	606
7. Norton, John M. A.	578
8. Couzens, Arthur W.	560
9. Thompson, Harry	464
10. French, John Henry	443
11. Bray, Robert Henry	414
12. Parr, Charles R.	379

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and to the Scrutineers terminated the proceedings.

JOSEPH SOUL, Hon. Secretary.

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The Alexandra Orphanage has no funded property, has no endowment, but depends entirely upon voluntary contributions. There is a present debt of £5,000 upon the Charity.

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FORTY VACANCIES ARE DECLARED. Candidates for the July Election must be nominated before the 14th June. Forms to fill up may be had on application.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

Office, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

UNIVERSITY of LONDON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the next Half-yearly examination for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY, the 30th of JUNE, 1873. In addition to the Metropolitan Examination, Provincial Examinations will be held at Owens College, Manchester; Queen's College, Liverpool; St. Cuthbert's College, Ushaw; and Queen's College, Birmingham.

Every Candidate is required to transmit his Certificate of Age to the Registrar (University of London, Burlington Gardens, London, W.), at least fourteen days before the commencement of the Examination.

Candidates who pass the Matriculation Examination are entitled to proceed to the Degrees conferred by the University in Arts, Laws, Science, and Medicine. This Examination is accepted (1) by the Council of Military Education in lieu of the Entrance examination otherwise imposed on Candidates for admission to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst; and (2) by the College of Surgeons in lieu of the Preliminary Examination otherwise imposed on Candidates for its Fellowship. It is also among those Examinations of which some one must be passed, (1) by every Medical Student on commencing his professional studies; and (2) by every person entering upon Articles of Clerkship to an Attorney—any such person Matriculating in the First Division being entitled to exemption from one year's service.

May 26th, 1873.

WILLIAM CARPENTER, M.D., Registrar.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

The THIRD ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held (D.V.) at WILLIS'S ROOMS, on TUESDAY, June 10th, 1873.

The Chair will be taken at Three o'clock by His Grace the Archbishop of YORK.

The Earl of Harrowby, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the Bishop of Derry, R. A. Cross, Esq., M.P., Rev. Dr. Lorimer, Benjamin Shaw, Esq., and others, are expected to address the meeting.

Tickets may be had on application to Messrs. Seeleys, 54, Fleet-street; Messrs. Nisbet, 21, Berners-street; Messrs. Hatchards, 187, Piccadilly; Mr. Waters, 97, Westbourne-Grove; and at the Office, 2, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

P. BARKER, Secretary.

CRAVEN CHAPEL NEW SCHOOLS and LECTURE HALL, Marshall-street, Golden-square.

Entrance by Foubert's-place, Regent-street.
The MEMORIAL STONE will be laid on WEDNESDAY, June 11, 1873, at Half-past One, o'clock, by JOHN KEMP WELCH, Esq.

After the ceremony Luncheon will be provided in St. James's Hall, Regent-street, at Three o'clock.

Tickets for Luncheon (including Admission to the Ground), 5s.; Tickets of Admission to Ground, 6d. and 1s. each; may be obtained in the Vestry, from any Member of the Committee, or from

J. BONTHEON, } Hon. Secs.
T. MITCHELL, }

HOSPITAL SUNDAY, 15TH JUNE.—The HONORARY SECRETARIES ATTEND the Mansion House DAILY at 2.30; and the Secretary may be seen any day between 11 and 4 o'clock.

The Second List of assenting Ministers will be published on the 2nd June.

Those Ministers who have not yet replied to the invitation of the Council are earnestly solicited to do so, and those who by accidental omission may not have received the invitation of the Council are requested to write to the Secretary, W. H. Ramsay, Esq., at the Mansion House, who will forward the necessary papers.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM, for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS.

At the ANNUAL MEETING of this School, on 29th April, S. MORLEY, Esq., M.P., in the Chair, an urgent desire was expressed that SEVEN BOYS, in addition to the seven elected, should be admitted into the School, and that the Committee should, as speedily as possible, fill this house to its limit of 100 boys from its present number of 80.

To enable them to do this without undue risk of debt, the following Gentlemen have kindly engaged to form a Guarantee Fund, to be available in case of need, and to be applied *pro rata*:—

S. Morley, Esq., M.P., £30 per annum for 3 years.	
T. B. Le Lacham, Esq.	50
R. Cunliffe, Esq.	20
J. V.	50
E. Sheffield, Esq.	5 5s.
Rev. D. Blow	5 5s.
Rev. W. Tyler	10 10s.
W. Griffith, Esq.	25 for this year.

The Committee earnestly solicit further contributions towards this fund, that the two objects of complete occupation of the house and freedom from debt may both be accomplished. TWENTY ADDITIONAL BOYS on the foundation will involve an ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE of at least £500, and they are exceedingly anxious at once to raise the Guarantee Fund to a similar amount.

JOSIAH VINEY, Hon. Sec.

Highgate, 26th May, 1873.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM, for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS.

At the ANNUAL MEETING of this School, held on 29th April, Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., in the Chair, the following resolutions, among others, were passed:—

"That in view of the large and increasing amount expended on the board and education of the boys in the Congregational School, it is henceforward a rule that an ANNUAL COLLECTION towards its funds be made by the father (being a pastor) of each boy on the foundation during his continuance in the school."

"That the following words be added to the 17th rule:— 'Also a limited number on higher terms at the discretion of the Committee.'"

In accordance with the above, the Committee respectfully request the Parents of the boys to endeavour to arrange for a Collection in their respective places of worship some time previous to the close of the financial term, 31st March, 1874.

They will also be willing to confer with Ministers who may desire to secure for their sons the educational advantages of Lewisham School, and whose incomes may enable them to pay a larger sum than £20 per annum.

JOSIAH VINEY, Hon. Sec.

Highgate, 23th May, 1873.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Chase-side, Enfield, Middlesex (for the united congregations of Zion and Chase-side Chapels).—A BAZAAR in AID of the BUILDING FUND will be held (by favour of Colonel Somerset) in the Riding House, Enfield-court, on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of JULY. Contributions are earnestly solicited. Parcels may be sent to Mrs. H. S. Toms, the Manse, Enfield, N. Further particulars will be gladly furnished by the Secretary, James Hallewell, 11, Old Bailey, E.C.

Published by ARTHUR MIALI, at No. 18, Boulevard Street, London; and Printed by ROBERT KINGSTON BERT, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, London.—Wednesday, May 28, 1873.

VIENNA EXHIBITION.

VISITORS to this Exhibition are respectfully informed that they may obtain at No. 10, Rothenthurm Strasse, the illustrated and other publications of Messrs. Partridge and Co., the Dublin Tract Society, the Monthly Tract Society, the Sunday School Union, in various languages, with English and Foreign Wall Sheets, the "Children's Friend," and the "British Workman," &c., &c.